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# Daily Report

# Latin America

FBIS-LAT-93-075
Wednesday
21 April 1993

# Daily Report
## Latin America

*FBIS-LAT-93-075* *21 April 1993*

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## European, Latin American Parliamentarians Issue Communique

*PA2104011893 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 4*

[Text] Participants in the first meeting of European and Latin American parliamentarians have issued a communique stating that they share the objective of promoting participative democracy and peace as well as integration processes that are necessary to improve the people's standard of living.

The participants stated that to achieve those goals there must be participative efforts that exclude no one. They believe these efforts should be made with the people's participation.

The delegates discussed achieving goals through the mutual cooperation of area legislatures on specific topics that can set the stage for a regional integration process. The topics would include:

a. Encouraging an exchange of institutional experiences;

b. Holding ad hoc meetings on specific topics such as;
-the environment
-eliminating illegal drug trafficking
-promoting and protecting human rights
-the role of women
-the foreign trade situation
-following up on European-Central American cooperation.

According to the parliamentarians and their communique, another important field of action for the meetings would be to promote greater interrelation between political groups of the various parliaments to emphasize the role those organizations should play in the integration processes and to cultivate the consolidation of peace with fairness and development.

Those parliamentarians who were able to lend technical expertise offered it, thus allowing parliaments to benefit from their assistance in projects and programs.

The participants also examined the general situation in Central America and other parts of Latin America and were able to identify "the need to develop and strengthen democratic practices and pertinent changes, including political parties and national congresses."

The delegates also valued the role the EC could play in achieving those goals and agreed to attend the Central American Parliament's second meeting in 1995.

In addition, they reiterated their hope that the peace talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity in Mexico would lead to a cease-fire and the signing of a peace agreement.

Delegates from the Andean, Latin American, European, Amazonic, and Central American parliaments and delegates from the Central American Integration System and the Southern Cone Common Market joint parliamentarian commission participated in the important meeting.

## Cuba

### European Parliament Official Meets With Robaina

*FL1904130793 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina today met with Fernando Suarez, president of the Central American and Caribbean Committee of the European Parliament, marking the beginning of a visit to Cuba. Also, this afternoon, Suarez will exchange impressions with Ricardo Alarcon de Quesada, president of the National Assembly of the People's Government. The [word indistinct] visitor will tour centers of economic interest in the country and be briefed on aspects of the national reality and the destruction caused by the recent tropical storm.

### Meets With Castro, Alarcon

*FL2004012193 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] European Parliamentarian Fernando Suarez concluded his visit to Cuba on 19 April. President Fidel Castro met with Fernando Suarez Gonzalez, the president of the European Parliament Committee on Central America and Mexico [as heard]. Comrade Ricardo Alarcon, the president of the National Assembly of the People's Government, was present during the meeting. The program of Mr. Suarez' activities included exchanges with Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and members of the faculty of Havana University. This institution received from the Mapfre-America, of which Mr. Suarez is the vice president, a donation of 205 books of the Mapfre 1492 collection. [passage omitted]

### Cooperation Memorandum Signed with Iran

*LD2004190693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] At the end of the fourth session of the Iran-Cuba Joint Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Committee, a cooperation memorandum of understanding was signed between the two countries. Agriculture Minister Mr. Kalantary signed the memorandum on behalf of Iran. According to the memorandum, Iran will purchase sugar from Cuba in return for oil.

The two countries will also cooperate in medical services and technical consultation and in training in sugarcane cultivation. Iran and Cuba will participate in the international trade fairs in both countries.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, Agriculture Minister Mr. Kalantary, who is visiting Cuba at the head of an economic delegation, has held separate meetings with the Cuban ministers of foreign trade, health, and sugar, during which he discussed the expansion of commercial ties between Iran and Cuba.

### Spanish Deputy Meets With Castro, Views Cuban Policy

*PA2004210793 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1604 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Havana, 20 Apr (EFE)—Fernando Suarez, deputy for the European Parliament and the Spanish Popular Party (PP), on 20 April told Cuban President Fidel Castro that he believes if his party wins the government, there will be no significant change in Spanish policy toward the island.

"The policy toward Cuba is of national interest and it should not change after the elections if the PP wins," Suarez told EFE after holding a two and a half hour meeting with Castro.

Fernando Suarez, chairman of the European Parliament Commission for Mexico and Central America and vice president of the Mapfre-America Foundation, arrived in Cuba on the weekend of 17 April to present the University of Havana with a collection of books on the 500th anniversary of America's discovery.

The European Parliament deputy stated that he discussed broadly the issue of human rights with Fidel Castro, adding that he mentioned specific cases which he refused to specify. "I have never addressed this issue so clearly and I think that (Castro) was very understanding and receptive to my proposals," Suarez stressed.

He insisted that the European Parliament wishes to increase cooperation with Cuba "and great progress could be made in this area, if the human rights situation were improved."

According to Fernando Suarez, Cuba is experiencing enormous difficulties and the economic embargo today has pathetic effects. "I think they want greater cooperation to maintain the basics of the system, but easing its most negative aspects," Suarez asserted.

The European Parliament deputy said that Castro voiced concern over the outbreak of the optic neuritis epidemic, which has spread throughout the island since the beginning of the year. He noted that more than 1,000 cases have been reported.

The Cuban president said that the origin of the epidemic is under investigation, because cases have been reported among both persons with food intake deficiencies and persons who appear to be well fed.

Fernando Suarez, who in the next few days will attend a seminar in Washington on the relations between the United States and Latin America, also met with Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon.

"They hope relations with the United States can improve; they see signs that at least there is no aggression, but they do not know what will happen," Sanchez concluded.

### Robaina Expresses Condolences to Turkish Ambassador

*FL2004223293 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1944 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] On the occasion of the death of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, the Turkish Embassy in Havana has opened a book for condolences that will remain open until 21 April. Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina and other national leaders and officials have expressed their condolences to Ambassador Aykut Berk and Turkish Embassy personnel. The Turkish Embassy is located on 5th Avenue in Miramar.

Members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba have also gone to the Turkish ambassador's residence in person to express their condolences.

Funeral services and other mourning activities are taking place in Ankara and all of Turkey's cities these days on the occasion of the president's unexpected death. Ozal died just hours after making a tour of various regions.

### Vietnamese Ambassador Presents Credentials

*FL2104031293 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 21 Apr 93*

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Juan Almeida Bosque, vice president of the Council of State, received in solemn ceremony His Excellency Le Duc Anh, who presented (?the credentials) accrediting him as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. Comrade Roberto Robaina Gonzalez, minister of foreign relations, participated in the ceremony.

The ambassador was accompanied by (Tran Quang Xuan), political advisor, and Colonel (Tran Ngoc Que), military, naval, and air attache of the Vietnamese diplomatic mission.

### Raul Castro Says Revolutionaries Surpassed Goals

*PA2004202393 Paris AFP in Spanish 1702 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr AFP— The objectives that inspired Cuba's revolutionaries "have all been surpassed," including "great social changes, the recovery of our wealth, and the promotion of economic development," Revolutionary Armed Forces Minister Raul Castro said during an interview with Mexican newspaper EL SOL, published on 20 April.

In the first interview he has granted in 30 years to a Latin American newspaper, Raul Castro recalled that "strictly in the economic field, we have achieved everything by braving the strong U.S. embargo."

"We eliminated the plight of unemployment and poverty; we developed road, communications, and port infrastructures; we brought electricity to the entire country; we mechanized farming activities, ports, and industry; and we developed scientific research, chiefly in the fields of biotechnology and pharmaceuticals," he added.

Fidel Castro's brother added that compounding the difficulties of the embargo there is "the unequal economic exchange that the developed capitalist world imposes on the Third World: the meager price of sugar in the world market constitutes the most dramatic example of that injustice in Cuba's case. It is highly unlikely that another small country could have resisted."

Throughout the interview, Castro reiterated his continuing admiration for his brother, Fidel. He recalled: "Fidel influenced me to become a communist back in 1952, before Moncada."

Raul Castro denied he has an image of being "fearsome" and said that after holding his post for three decades, "the enemy could not regard me as a charitable soul," but "it is an exaggeration to attribute personally to me the merit of thousands of men in uniform and a whole people."

### CTC Chief Discusses 1 May Celebration Preparations

*FL2104005193 Havana Cuba Vision Network in Spanish 2220 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The national secretary of the Cuban Workers Federation [CTC] [Pedro Ross Leal] today discussed completion of the tasks for 1 May and the preparations to mobilize the population under the slogan, "The Month of May With the Fatherland," which only means, "Me With the Fatherland."

[Begin Ross recording] We need to be with the Fatherland, and what does being with the Fatherland mean? It means being at one's work site efficiently carrying out the social labor that corresponds to us [as heard]. Therefore, we will celebrate this 1 May in the town squares and production centers, where there is not a minute to be lost. [end recording]

[Words indistinct] on 1 May over 600 guests from 30 countries who will parade along with the Cubans at Revolution Square [words indistinct] work centers the labor commitments made on the occasion of this date will be checked. Plaza, Habana Vieja, Centro Habana, and Cerro will depart [words indistinct] the remaining municipalities will use several different methods of transportation.

The CTC has directed that black and red armbands be made, and that Cuban and 26 July flags be used, as well as multi-colored remnants and other representative objects. It was stated at the meeting that the atmosphere is propitious for celebrating a historic 1 May in support of the Revolution, the [Communist] Party [of Cuba], and Fidel.

### Judges Issue Sentences for Illegal Cattle Slaughter

*FL2004021093 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The judges of the Chamber for Crimes Against State Security in the Provincial Court of Havana have issued sentences in 1993 case No. 28 for the crimes of sabotage, acts against state security, and the theft of a motor vehicle. The judges issued sentences ranging from seven to 12 years imprisonment and of course, indemnization to Bacuranao Genetic Livestock Enterprise, where the crimes took place on the night of 12 March (1992) when the accused conducted an illegal slaughter of cattle at the Vietnam-2 cattle ranch. The crime at the cattle reproduction center was conducted by a group of eight people who not only killed and illegally sacrificed eight cows, but also stabbed another 19, leaving them injured, thereby committing a flagrant act of sabotage against the national economy.

### Unscheduled Power Outages Acknowledged, Projected

*FL2004223493 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1935 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The Basic Electric Organization in the city of Havana announces that emergency power outages have been occuring since early this morning in all the capital's municipalities due to limitations in the amount of electricity available. This report, provided by Arturo Mora de la Cruz, adds: Due to this situation, there will be interruptions in electric service throughout the day. From 1900 to 2100, the municipalities of Boyeros, Diez de Octubre, and Arroyo Naranjo [will be affected].

(?Mora) adds that the power outages could extend to other parts of the capital, such as Marianao, Playa, and La Lisa, depending on the amount of electricity being generated at a given moment. The Havana City Basic Electric Organization authorities also say that parts of Plaza and Cerro will likewise be without electric power between 2000 and 2230.

## Antigua and Barbuda

### United Progressive Party Announces Election Candidates

*FL2004210193 Bridgetown CANA in English 2013 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] St. John's, Antigua, April 20, CANA—Seven persons who contested Antigua and Barbuda's 1989 general election are among 10 candidates chosen by the main opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) for the next general election constitutionally due by next March. The one-year-old UPP, a merger of three former opposition parties, published the list Tuesday, two days after the end of the party's first national convention. The release said UPP political leader and parliamentary opposition leader Baldwin Spencer, a trade unionist, would seek reelection as the representative of St. John's Rural West.

Senator Wilmouth Daniel, who narrowly lost the St. Phillip South seat in a 1991 by-election caused by the death of former Education Minister Reuben Haris, will again contest that seat. The other candidates with previous electoral experience are Nathaniel Francis, St. George's; Charlesworth Samuel, All Saints East and St. Luke's; Rolston Potter, St. John's Rural North; Anthonyson King, St. Peter; and Hilson Baptiste, St. Mary's South.

Newcomers are Francis Nunes, Jr., St. Phillip North; Harold Lovell, St. John's City East; and Bertrand Joseph, St. Mary's North. The UPP release said the remaining candidates would be announced at a later date. There are 17 seats in the House of Representatives.

## Barbados

### Central Bank Reports 'No Growth' in Economy

*FL2004202093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1841 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, April 20, CANA—The Central Bank of Barbados Tuesday reported "no growth" in the economy for the first quarter of 1993 and announced deeper lending rate cuts and the removal of selective credit limits to help boost business.

Effective May 1, the Central Bank's discount rate (charged on overnight lending to commercial banks) will be cut from 12 to eight percent, the prime lending rate from 10 to eight percent, and the commercial bank cash reserve requirement from eight to six percent. The minimum savings rate remains at four percent. Central Bank governor Calvin Springer also announced the removal of selective credit limits on the personal and distribution sectors.

"These (new monetary) measures we hope will at least give some stimulus and assist in the reduction of the operation costs of businesses," the governor told reporters at his quarterly briefing on the economy. According to the bank's review, in the first quarter, domestic liquidity had strengthened and some banks had reduced time deposit rates below the minimum savings rate, while the prime lending rate and the treasury bill rates fell by 1 and 1.5 percent respectively.

"Preliminary indications suggest that the economy registered no growth during the first quarter. Lower interest rates did not elicit the desired effect on private sector spending," Springer said. The further ease in credit was decided by the board of the Central Bank in consultation with commercial banks, after the April 7 floating of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar, but not because of the float, Springer said.

"It was not done in the context of what was happening in Trinidad," he said. "It was done in the context of what

we needed to do to restimulate the economy." He, however, acknowledged the floating of the Trinidad and Tobago dollar, and any depreciation which follows, "could have adverse effects on the already depressed manufacturing sector." In the circumstances, every effort should be made to "contain the costs of doing business in Barbados," Springer said. He identified a proposed national wage freeze as an important element of the process, and proceeded to announce the new monetary measures effective May.

"(The credit ease) will certainly assist, but it certainly will not compensate (Barbadian manufacturers) for whatever depreciation there might be on the Trinidad dollar," Springer said. According to the bank's quarterly review, continued government expenditure restraint and depressed import demand helped raise net international reserves to 79.2 million dollars (one Barbados dollar = 50 U.S. cents), almost double the level of the 1992 first quarter. Government finances recorded a small surplus during the first quarter, with current expenditure 20 million dollars lower than first quarter 1992. Personal and corporate tax collection fell by 17 million dollars while consumption tax receipts were higher, the bank said.

Central bank financing of government fell by 100 million dollars during the quarter. But the bank reported that real value added in tourism was weaker than expected, growing 0.3 percent, while manufacturing "continued to contract," construction and distribution "remained sluggish," and a rise in agricultural output was mainly due to an early start to the sugar harvest. Economic recovery has been slower than anticipated, the bank said. It predicted a "challenging year" for the economy despite gains in the external and public sector accounts, anticipated new private investment in tourism and increased government capital expenditure.

## Dominica

### Trade Minister Questions Charles' Assertion on 'Overseas Agenda'

*FL2104020693 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, April 20, CANA—Trade Minister Charles Maynard has questioned Prime Minister Dame Eugenia Charles' recent assertion that he has what she referred to as an "overseas agenda."

Charles made the remark in an interview in which she was asked about Maynard as a possible candidate in the race for political leadership of the ruling Dominica Freedom Party, in keeping with Dame Eugenia's promise to step down at the end of her party's current term of office. Maynard, in an interview Tuesday, said he was at a loss to understand what Charles meant by the statement.

"I raised this matter with the prime minister. And I said to her if I had an overseas agenda, she would be aware of the fact that on two occasions I had been offered the job of secretary general of Caricom (Caribbean Community), and I had not accepted it, and that I was in Dominica, and that I had remained here," the trade minister said.

"If I had an overseas agenda, I would have left already. So I am not sure on what basis she decided to make that statement," Maynard remarked. "I think there was a suggestion that I had indicated that I was not too happy about certain things, and maybe had regretted that I did not accept the position. But I do not think that justifies a statement that my interest is elsewhere," the trade minister said. He said his contribution to Dominican society both at the public and private sector levels was well-known.

## Dominican Republic

### * January Trade Deficit Tops $115 Million

*93CA0100B Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Mar 93 p 1-D*

[Article by Jose Mercedes Feliz]

[Text] During January 1993 the Dominican Republic had a deficit of $115.5 million in its trade balance, according to Principales Indicadores Economicos [Principal Economic Indicators], a publication of the Banco Central de la Republica [Central Bank of the Republic].

This same phenomenon has been repeated for at least the past 10 years, which indicates that the country is making no progress toward its objective of recovery in the international market.

According to the publication mentioned above, in January 1993 Dominican exports amounted to barely $45.6 million, while imports reached $161.1 million.

Although exports in January 1993 grew by comparison with January 1992, when they amounted to $43.9 million, this represented an increase of barely 3.8 percent.

Imports in January 1993 amounted to $161.1 million, a 19.7 percent increase over January 1992, when they totaled $134.5 million.

During January 1993 the country exported sugar and sugar byproducts worth $10.6 million. Exports of coffee and coffee products amounted to $3.2 million; cacao and related products, $1.5 million; tobacco and tobacco products, $3.5 million; minerals, $18.8 million; and miscellaneous, other products, $8.0 million.

Meanwhile, in January 1992 exports of sugar and sugar byproducts amounted to $13.8 million; coffee and coffee products, $1.7 million; cacao and related products, $1.4 million; tobacco and tobacco products, $3.1 million; minerals, $17.2 million; and miscellaneous, other products, $6.7 million.

On the other hand, in January 1993 imports of petroleum and petroleum products amounted to $27.6 million; food products, $2.8 million, including purchases of fats and vegetable oil by the National Institute of Price Stabilization (INESPRE); wheat, $3.4 million; and miscellaneous, other products, $127.3 million.

However, in January 1992 imports of petroleum and petroleum products totaled $19.7 million; food products, $800,000, including imports of fats and vegetable oil by INESPRE; wheat, $3.2 million; and miscellaneous, other products, $110.8 million.

In its list of purchases from abroad the Central Bank does not include coal, a product which the thermal electricity generators of the Dominican Electricity Corporation (CDE) normally use.

Trade by the Dominican Republic with the rest of the world reflected a deficit of $1,616.2 million during 1992. This represented a 51 percent or $545.7 million increase over the deficit of $1,070.5 million recorded in 1991.

The increase in the trade deficit principally reflected the growth of imports by $449.3 million, due to larger imports of gasoil, gasoline, fuel oil, fuel for jet aircraft, and propane gas.

The increased trade deficit also reflected a decline in the value of exports during 1992 of 14.6 percent, or $96.4 million, as a result of lower prices and quantities of the principal products exported.

In effect the value of exports of ferronickel declined by $41.5 million; of sugar, by $20.6 million; cacao seeds, by $19 million; and gold, by 12.5 million.

### * January Imports Up, Inflation Down

*93CA0100C Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 13 Mar 93 p 1-D*

[Article by Pedro Caba]

[Text] Imports began 1993 in an explosive way, amounting to $161.1 million, an increase of $26.5 million over their total value in January 1992.

In 1992 imports totaled $2,178.1 million, compared to $1,728.8 million in 1991, an increase of 20 percent.

According to statistics for January 1993 the increase in imports, compared to those during January 1992 was also about 20 percent, which has caused concern among economic observers, who are predicting problems caused by a possible deficit in the balance of payments on the current account if the same tendency continues during the remaining months of 1993.

Sales of electricity in January 1993 increased by 25 percent, compared to January 1992, which shows a continuing increase of activity in the electricity sector, according to a report by the Banco Central [Central Bank].

In the same report it is also noted that the Gross National Product of the nation in 1992 totaled 99 billion Dominican pesos, an increase of more than 8.0 billion pesos, compared to 1991.

It is also stated in the report that during January 1993 inflation amounted to only 0.28 percent, the lowest monthly figure in the past 10 months.

In January 1991 the CDE [Dominican Electricity Corporation] sold a total of 211.8 million pesos of electricity, whereas it sold 262.1 million pesos in January 1993.

The greatest increases in sales of electricity took place in the residential, industrial, and commercial sectors. Consumption of electricity remained almost static in the government and public lighting sectors.

Regarding Gross Domestic Product, it has been reported that the calculations of the Banco Central for the current month of March, which were made public in Principales Indicadores Economicos [Principal Economic Indicators], its monthly bulletin, do not include the contributions of the tourism and duty free zone sectors, since national accounts have not been brought up to date.

### * ONAPRES Reports on Investment Expenditures

*93CA0100A Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 24 Feb 93 pp 1, 4*

[Text] The National Budget Office (ONAPRES) has reported that government revenues amounted to 1,393.4 million Dominican pesos during the month of January 1993.

A note made public by ONAPRES, providing details on the use made of the resources received, pointed out that 801.6 million pesos of total January revenues were earmarked for investment.

Receipts by the central government in December 1992 amounted to 1,558.4 million pesos, or 165 million pesos more than collections in January 1993.

Following is the text of the note containing details of the investments made:

"In the interest of keeping the public informed about state revenues and expenditures for the month of January 1993 the National Budget Office announces the following details about this period of the current fiscal year.

"The strategy of the present government, under the leadership of President Dr. Joaquin Balaguer, is to channel public resources to the essential, priority sectors of agriculture, irrigation, safe drinking water, energy, health, and education, without neglecting other, very important areas which contribute to the harmonious development of progress and of the national economy.

"National income during January 1993 amounted to 1,393,454,797 pesos, of which 801,630,771.88 pesos were earmarked for investment.

"A total of 139,049,671.69 pesos were earmarked for the agricultural, irrigation, and energy sectors. The National Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI), in particular, received 43,765,471.18 pesos for the construction and supervision of the Jiguey-Aguacate Reservoir and the projected Sabaneta Reservoir, as well as for the construction and repair of irrigation channels and the maintenance of other reservoirs.

"The Dominican Electricity Corporation received 35,626,107.71 pesos to cover commitments previously made and to contribute to improving the energy sector of our country.

"The Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD) received 5,454,522.99 pesos to carry out various projects and to finance several, agricultural projects. The Banco Agricola [Agricultural Bank] received 35 million pesos to provide support for small sugar producers and for the purchase of rice for use in government social programs. The Special Fund for Agricultural Development (FEDA) received 519,866.82 pesos to implement programs to provide help to agricultural production and for other, related purposes. La Cruz de Manzanillo (The Manzanillo Cross) project received 2,178,188 pesos to plant several, agricultural crops. The Secretariat of State for Agriculture received 10 million pesos for the Milk Development Project in the eastern part of the country. The State Sugar Council received 25 million pesos to support commitments made for the 1992-93 sugar harvesting season.

"The National Institute of Safe Drinking Water and Sewerage received 32,797,632.40 pesos for the implementation of several projects.

"The Banco Central de la Republica [Central Bank of the Republic] received 187 million pesos for payments on the public debt. To strengthen our currency, the president earmarked 25 million pesos to reduce our national debt. The Santo Domingo Aqueduct and Sewerage Corporation was provided with 106,336,443.33 pesos for the construction of the aqueduct between Valdesia and Santo Domingo, the Cibaro Central aqueduct, and other public works.

"Finally, the Office of the Secretary of State for Public Works and Communications received funds amounting to 245,484,555.83 pesos, the Office of Supervisory Engineers on State-Sponsored Public Works received 57,323,885.29 pesos, and the Coordinating and Supervisory Office of State-Sponsored Public Works received 35,933,887.40 pesos for the implementation of public works and programs of social and economic interest throughout the country, such as projects for the construction of housing, airports, harbors, highways, local roads, and the maintenance of streets and historical monuments."

## Increase of 30.7 Percent in Poor, Indigent Noted

*93CA0100E Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 16 Feb 93 p 1-D*

[Article by Victor Manuel Tejada]

[Text] The distribution of income in the Dominican Republic deteriorated notably between 1989 and 1991, when the number of poor people grew by 30.7 percent, rising from 3.9 million in 1989 to 5.1 million in 1991, according to data from the Center for Economic Research in the Caribbean (CIECA).

In its Periodic Note No. 22 on the Situation CIECA explained that, of the 5.1 million poor people in the Dominican Republic in 1991, 1.8 million were destitute and the remaining 3.3 million people were living in poverty. Meanwhile, in 1989, of the 3.9 million poor people 2.1 million were destitute.

The report pointed out that the destitute are those who have an income which only covers minimum, nutritional needs, while the poor are those who have an income which covers nutritional needs and something more than that.

The report indicated that, in percentage terms, 70 percent of the Dominican people were below the poverty line in 1991, compared to 57 percent in that situation in 1989.

To explain the deterioration in the distribution of income, CIECA pointed out that in 1991 the poorest 40 percent of the population received 8.7 percent of national income, while the richest 20 percent of the population received 61 percent of national income.

The following figures might be added to the above data: there was cumulative inflation of 182 percent between March 1989 and September 1991. The estimated unemployment rate was 27 percent in 1991. There was a deterioration of more than 20 percent in real, minimum wages.

Periodic Note No. 22 also stated that real public spending fell by 31.5 percent between 1989 and 1991, with a similar decline in public spending on social programs. Furthermore, Gross Domestic Product on a real, per capita basis declined by 9.8 percent, and public, humanitarian spending was reduced by 43 percent.

Finally, in its study on poverty CIECA concluded that, between 1989 and 1991 the rich became richer and the poor became poorer.

## * Unequal Distribution of Wealth Described

*93CA0100D Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 25 Jan 93 p 1-D*

[Article by Jose Mercedes Feliz]

[Text] The Institute for the Study of Population and Development (IEPD) stated on 24 January that there are still enormous inequalities in the distribution of wealth in Dominican society. The consequence of this situation is that the poorest 13.4 percent of families receive barely 100 Dominican pesos per person per month, or less.

Isis Duarte, the director of the IEPD, explained that this total is less than 1.0 percent of the total income of the country. Meanwhile, the richest people, who make up

11.2 percent of the families in the country, have a per capita income of 1,500 pesos per month. The richest families therefore receive half of the total income of the nation.

She said that 1.8 percent of the families receive 22.2 percent of total national income, for an average of 5,000 pesos per person per month, while 26.4 percent of the families receive 200 pesos or less per person per month. This barely amounts to 3.9 percent of total income.

In making public the results of the "Demographic and Health Survey" (ENDESA-91) at a press conference Duarte stated that this study does not cover income and expenditures, as such, although information was obtained in the course of collecting the data that makes it possible to calculate the monthly income of every family member over six years of age, using the seven sources of information.

She stated that the seven sources of information used covered jobs, work, or office positions held; remittances from family members working abroad; help from family members living in the Dominican Republic; retirement or pension income; allowances for household rent; transfers of funds on account of dividends or interest; and transfers for any other reason.

The director of the IEPD was accompanied at the press conference by Magaly Caram de Alvarez, executive director of the Dominican Family Welfare Association (PROFAMIA), and Nelson Ramirez, former director of the IEPD.

Duarte said that the total, monthly income of each person was calculated by adding total income declared in each of the sources of information. In turn, total family income was calculated by adding the incomes of each person usually living in the home, but not including domestic servants.

She stated that the ENDESA-91 survey did not include all children and teenagers in the country and also did not include all persons attending school, since that would imply ignoring the Economically Active Population (PEA).

She added that, on the basis of an age limit and a given time, taken as points of reference, the Economically Active Population is defined as the sum total of those who are working or are looking for work. That is, the total number of employed and unemployed persons.

She said that chronic unemployment above 20 percent, which has affected the Dominican Republic for decade after decade, reflects structural factors which should be explained.

She considered that the ability to satisfy the basic needs of the majority of Dominican families is determined, in large measure, although not exclusively, by the amount of income that family members obtain. This belief led the ENDESA-91 survey to include this variable.

The ENDESA-91 survey contains two independent and parallel samples. The first sample was designed with the objective of carrying out about 8,000 complete, individual interviews of women from 15 to 49 years of age, selected from approximately 8,000 families chosen on a random basis.

At the same time the second sample was designed to identify another 8,000 families where a broader questionnaire was filled out, covering the members of the families selected, with information on more than 30,000 persons.

## * Social, Ecological Impact of Large Farms Noted

### * Concentration of Ownership

*93CA0099A Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 p 8-B*

[Article by Esteban Rosario]

[Text] Santiago—The invasion of lands in the Dominican Republic is caused more by large farmers than by the peasants, and involves an accelerated concentration of land holdings and the myth of job creation through the modernization of agriculture.

The modernization of agriculture follows primarily the same pattern of appropriating large tracts of land for the almost exclusive use of production for the international markets.

Through the modernization of agriculture, the largest land holdings occupy not only flat arable land previously farmed by peasants, much of it endowed with infrastructure, but also mountainous areas.

According to a study entitled Soil Use and Food Production in the Dominican Republic, produced by the Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CEUR), Sherbrook University in Canada, and the Teledetection Research and Application Center (CARTEL), important changes have occurred in agriculture.

"The occupation of land by large owners has spread to the Central Cordillera, including areas occupied by large rural development projects and forested zones," the study said.

"As a result," the study explains, "many peasant farmers have had to emigrate to marginal lands in the Sierra de Bahoruco, climb up the Macizo Central and the Sierra de Martin Garcia, move to arid zones in the extreme east, and even occupy the Los Haitises National Park."

The problem is even more serious. The study points out that large properties have occupied the country's best lands, those under irrigation, and the mountain zones. "Thus," the researchers explain, "not only does the territorial expansion of the non-peasant systems force the peasant systems to relocate to lands less appropriate for agriculture, causing the peasants to occupy land of

worse quality, but there is growing pressure on the peasant territories to disappear."

"The case of Los Haitises," the study says, "is very interesting. "In 1985, the zone was completely occupied by peasants, with strong pressure from large owners (many of them ranchers), who pushed the peasant units into the interior."

The dynamic of the food production systems has led not only to a high rate of deforestation, but also continuous increase in the rate of deforestation.

In 1973, for example, a study done by CEUR-CARTEL showed that the rate of deforestation for hardwood and coniferous forests was 32 percent during the period from 1972-73 to 1985-86, in the western part of the country.

That represents a loss of 14,100 hectares per year of that type of forest.

During the same period, the loss of dry forests was estimated at 22 percent, that is, a loss of 10,680 hectares per year.

"Changes in soil use caused by the dynamic of distinct production systems, through the process of intensification in soil use," the researchers said, "have resulted in an increased potential for soil erosion."

To demonstrate that assertion, the researchers cite the accelerated erosion that has occurred on ranch lands, where growth is faster.

"Thus," the researchers state, "the invasion of lands is caused more by large landowners rather than by peasants. Violence toward peasant families and natural resources during the course of this invasion cannot be ignored."

**The Myth**

The study carried out by CEUR, CARTEL, and Sherbrook University shows that the generation of jobs through the promotion of large-scale farming is only a myth.

The analysis shows that the process of agricultural modernization is nothing more than a process of adapting agriculture to the needs of the capital accumulation process, both at the domestic and international levels.

"That leads to significant quantitative changes in the demand for labor, as well as changes in the type of work and production ratios." they explained.

But this situation results in three important phenomena associated with the process of agricultural modernization:

- There is a tendency to correlate the process of modernization with the growing use of technical workers who save on labor force requirements.
- In the case of Latin America, a growing and significant use of capital-intensive techniques with respect to agricultural value added has been observed, but this has not implied a notable increase in the number of production units that these technologies have incorporated.
- In the Dominican Republic, modern agribusinesses are characterized by the use of technology with a very high capital/labor ratio.

"Thus," say the researchers, "it is believed that the number of jobs generated is relatively low compared to capital invested."

To create 15,800 jobs between 1983 and 1989, 1,195,773,176 pesos were invested. But of the total number of jobs directly generated, around 70 percent are seasonal.

The researchers found indications that seem to confirm a concentration of modernization and slow progress in capital-intensive techniques in Dominican agriculture. The incorporation of these techniques has been exclusively on the part of a limited number of large holdings.

**Productivity**

In general, the large holdings have limited themselves to extensive soil use, "reporting low rates of adequate utilization and restricted levels of productivity and production."

The factors explaining the low utilization of capital-intensive techniques are several. The most important are the relatively cheap rural labor and the presence of a contingent of Haitian laborers who facilitate that situation.

The relatively easy access to land by large holders leads to increasing production primarily by increasing the area under cultivation, ignoring techniques that increase labor and land productivity.

The other determining factor is the cost of capital, which even when access to credit has been selective, favors large landholders.

On analyzing the situation of the rural labor force, the researchers, led by CEUR Director graduate Pedro Juan del Rosario, stated that in 1980, permanent laborers represented only 20.3 percent of landless workers.

However, the seasonal workers represented 79.7 percent.

"These conclusions are reinforced," the report states, "by the finding that non-peasant agricultural systems have been characterized by the search for direct access to land ownership, the construction of sophisticated processing and packing plants, the vertical integration of small land holdings, and the control of bank sources of financing established in the urban zones."

That dynamic has resulted in "rapid relative growth in the temporary labor force or an absolute decrease in the permanent labor force, such that the demand for labor derived from the rationalization of agriculture tends to generalize a precarious labor situation and therefore an eventual majoritarian proletarization."

"The previous analysis," continues the study, "leads one to believe that migratory flows toward the production zones of modern agribusinesses are probably of a lesser magnitude than the flows generated by more traditional agricultural holdings, characterized by a more intensive use of labor."

"Internal and external forces," it emphasizes, "have encouraged the growth of modern, nontraditional agribusinesses: legal incentives, favorable credit policies, Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative, and the handing over of state lands to domestic and foreign enterprises with large amounts of capital."

In this case, the study cites the agribusiness established in Sanchez Ramirez province, which benefited from all the aforementioned incentives to achieve the characteristics of a modernized enterprise: an spread of 60,300 tareas, a total of 820 employees, of whom 76 percent are considered non-qualified temporary employees, and a capital/labor ratio of 97,560 pesos.

"This predominant mode of soil use," the study concludes, "has generated pressure of two kinds among the peasant agricultural systems: one on the living conditions of the rural population, and the other on natural resources. The result has been poverty, environmental degradation, and insufficient food production, articulated in a vicious circle that increasingly corrodes the permanence of the foundations of rural men and women in their own settlements."

### * Increased Rural Poverty

*93CA0099B Santo Domingo EL SIGLO in Spanish 10 Feb 93 p 8-D*

[Article by Esteban Rosario]

[Text] Santiago—Poverty has increased during the last decade among small and medium-sized farmers, who shoulder the responsibility for food production in the country, because of a lack of protective policies, adequate income distribution, and public services.

The primary causes of the impoverishment of small and medium-sized producers are declining incomes, low returns on agricultural products, and variations between the urban and rural zones.

In 1980, the salary of an industrial worker was equivalent to 52 percent of the required salary. However, the salary of an agricultural worker represented only 34 percent of what he needed.

By 1991, despite the passage of time, the purchasing power of both salaries had fallen drastically.

The industrial worker's salary was equivalent to 33 percent of the amount required to live on, while the salary of the agricultural worker represented only 17 percent.

The study, entitled Soil Use and Food Production, which was performed by Sherbrook University and CARTEL of Canada, and the Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CEUR) of the Mother and Teacher Catholic Pontifical University, analyzes in a comparative format the incomes of the urban and rural groups.

"But the process of impoverishment not only affected wage earners; it appears that small agricultural workers have also experienced declining incomes, because of low prices for the principal crops."

Of the seven products typically produced by small farmers, returns increased for only two of them.

The products grown by peasants were rice, tobacco, red beans, sweet potato, yuca, peanuts, and corn.

Of those seven, only the returns of rice and red beans increased.

Rice had a return of 15.6 percent and red beans 23.9 percent, during the period from 1980 to 1989.

"But those two products have their disadvantages. The cultivation of rice is a capital intensive activity requiring an investment almost always higher than the 'working capital' of the small producer, and thus he needs a ready source of financing. Red beans, for their part," says the study, "are very 'sensitive' to changes in the weather, making them a very risky crop."

According to the aforementioned study, the salary required to live on, expressed in 1980 pesos, is 242.34 pesos; and in 1990, 2,186.34 pesos.

"To be able to achieve that level of income in 1980," explain the investigators, "a farmer needed to cultivate only 23.83 tareas of yuca. But in 1989, if he wanted to maintain the same level of income, that farmer had to cultivate 83 tareas of the same product."

"According to the CEUR," says the study, which was carried out in 24 phases in the year 1990, "the average farm size was 55.8 tareas, that is, a small producer whose land was planted in yuca would receive a monthly income of 162.94 (1980) pesos, equivalent to 64 percent of the required salary.

However, the salary of an independent, non-agricultural worker, expressed in 1990 pesos, was 183.76 pesos, that is, 13 percent higher than that of the small producer whose land was planted in yuca.

"It appears," emphasizes the study, "that incomes have declined most drastically in the agricultural sector, where besides, employment and profitability tend to be much less stable."

This discrimination against agriculture, however, has directly affected the economic vitality of the rural zone, since according to estimates, the number of small producers dedicated to raising crops utilizing completely unsalaried labor has declined.

The number varies between 240,000 and 270,000. that is, more than 40 percent of all rural families.

Of those families, according to the study, one must add the large number of wage earners,, who live in the agricultural sector with all their dependents.

**Education**

During 1990, the country had 5,107 classrooms, of which 765 were in the countryside.

That means that the rural sector had only 15 percent of classrooms in the national education system.

But if that percentage is compared with the proportion of people living in rural zones at that time, 41 percent, it is evident that in terms of education, peasants are also discriminated against.

"That discrimination," explains the study, "is not reflected the same way at all levels of teaching. At the primary level there is no 'quantitative discrimination,' since there are little schools everywhere throughout the country. Rather, discrimination at that level is qualitative, since the quality of the teachers tends to be worse in rural zones. Prizes are awarded to good teachers, encouraging them to work in the urban zones."

Discrimination is felt more at the secondary level and in the adult education programs. Most of the rural schools do not go past the eighth grade.

For that reason, many students stop attending school after completing the lower grades.

"During the 1987-88 school year," says the study, "17 percent of adult education teachers worked in rural zones. That proportion now seems laughable if one considers that according to the 1981 census, the rate of illiteracy in rural zones among those over 10 of age was more than double that of the urban sector.

The rate of illiteracy was 37.3 percent in the countryside and 15.9 percent in urban areas.

"Further proof of discrimination," claim the authorities, "is the fact that all technical-vocational schools, including the agricultural ones, are in urban zones." The same thing is true with private schools. The study states that there is only one high school in a rural area, the La Torre School, in Vega.

**Health**

In 1990, the public health budget was 2.99 billion pesos.

Of that amount, rural health, defined as primary health, received only 47.971 million pesos, or 7.39 percent of the Public Health budget.

During that same year, Public Health had 4,543 doctors working throughout the country. Of that total, urban areas had 2,990, and there were 1,533 in the countryside.

"If we divide the number of doctors by the number of inhabitants per region," say the researchers, "we obtain a ratio of 7.1 doctors for every 10,000 inhabitants in the urban areas, and 5.2 doctors in the rural zones."

Furthermore, expenditures on infrastructure works is also lower in the rural areas.

Of 48.24 million pesos spent on construction works in 1990, only 1.746 million were invested in the repair, remodeling, and construction of rural clinics.

It is the same with water services. In December 1990, INAPA [National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewage] had 365,158 households registered as connected, of which 279,279 were in urban areas and only 75,870 in the countryside.

The same with the distribution of electricity services. Only 30 percent of the rural population had electricity.

"The unequal decline in incomes—incomes in rural areas have fallen more than those in urban areas—combined with discrimination in access to public services," says the study, "constitutes one of the principal reasons why peasants are emigrating to urban centers."

"In recent years, the percentage of poor inhabitants has grown at a much higher rate in urban zones than in rural areas. In 1984, according to the Central Bank, the poor constituted 55 percent of the rural population and 30 percent of the urban population. In 1989, these proportions had changed significantly, with 61 percent in rural zones and 55 percent in urban areas."

The researchers say that the migratory process has in certain respects influenced this trend, because a large number of peasants emigrated to the large cities like Santo Domingo and Santiago.

The researchers say that Santo Domingo and Santiago constitute the urban centers that receive the most emigrants each year.

## * Military Disputes Control of Drug Traffic

*93CA0098A Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 5 Mar 93 p 8-A*

[Text] Bonn, 4 March—Corrupt elements of the Armed Forces of Honduras are engaged in an internal struggle for the control of drug trafficking on Honduran territory and have caused an increase in the number of murders and human rights violations in that country, the president of the Committee for the Defense of Human Rights in Honduras, Ramon Custodio, warned today in Bonn.

Custodio, who is traveling in Europe, held conversations today with senior ministerial officials and with deputies of the German federal parliament (Bundestag) concerning the serious outbreak of human rights violations in his country, and the situation in Central America.

The Honduran Human Rights Committee accused the government of Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of "not cooperating with human rights organizations."

In a confidential report that it supplied to the German Press Agency (DPA), the nongovernmental body said that agents of the Regional Directorate of the National Directorate of Investigations (DNI) and of the Counterintelligence Battalion (once known as 3-16 or Death Squad) are implicated in the brutal murders committed in Honduras between 9 December 1991 and 29 January 1993.

There is a "complicitous coverup" in Honduras "by judicial as well as other state authorities, and a similar tolerance or acquiescence by the state in not making use of the means at its command to investigate and punish" human rights violations, Custodio said.

Custodio took part in meetings of the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva, and he will continue on to Brussels, where he will meet with members of the Executive Committee of the EEC and members of the European Parliament.

Custodio said during an interview with DPA that "members of the Honduran Armed Forces continue to be responsible for violations. The death squads are reappearing. This is due primarily to personal motives, since the Armed Forces benefit from impunity and even economic autonomy, as well as by the corruption and inefficiency of the judicial system" in Honduras.

The committee is accusing the government of Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas of "lack of ability in investigating human rights violations."

Custodio underlines as a "very significant historical fact" the coincidence between "the supposed period of transition to democracy and the modernization of the Honduran state, the disappearance of all ideological competition since 1989, and the obvious rise of narco-states, especially where, as in Honduras, there is military rule."

Honduran territory is used ever more frequently by drug traffickers as an intermediate staging area in the flow of shipments that they send to the United States.

In the opinion of the Honduran nongovernmental body, shared as well by the U.S. Department of State in its latest report on human rights in Honduras in 1992, "when arrests are made in connection with human rights violations, the judiciary is unable to pass sentence in a suitable manner."

"In reality, the murders planned by the chiefs and carried out by members of the Honduran security organizations, abusing the authority entrusted to them, is nothing new, as the authorities in one way or another have admitted them and even justified them. First, in the name of state security, supposedly threatened by political subversion, and now by the uncontrolled increase in common crime, against which they are also officially acting, frequently and energetically."

"Cases from years past remain unresolved, and one of the most serious abuses," the committee and the U.S. report agree, "is the existence of defendants and prisoners who remain behind bars without sentencing," said Custodio.

### * FORESTA Shuts Down Sources of Contamination

*93CA0100F Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 9 Feb 93 pp 1, 4*

[Article by Epifanio Rodriguez: "FORESTA Closes Down Companies in La Vega and Santiago"]

[Text] Santiago—Several companies in Santiago and one in La Vega, including Bermudez Tannery, canning plants, and a battery factory, were closed down on 8 February by order of the director general of FORESTA [government agency in charge of reforestation], after it was proved that they had continued to pollute the Yaque del Norte River and other bodies of water flowing into that stream.

On 8 February Dr Francisco Amaro Guzman visited the Bermudez Tannery plant (one of the largest in the country) and alleged that the sewage treatment unit at the factory was not operating satisfactorily. In the vicinity of Rafei Prison he closed down the Don Guillermo Tannery, the property of former trustee Claudio Cabrera Espaillat, for the same reason.

Dr Carlos Alberto Bermudez, an executive of the Bermudez Tannery, stated that the sewage treatment plant has been operating for more than one year. He said that he will show the FORESTA authorities and members of the Ecological Drainage Commission that the sewage treatment plant is operating.

The indefinite closure of the Bermudez Tannery, whose president is Carlos Bermudez, a well known businessman, will affect about 250 persons who work at the industrial establishment. The plant is located on Avenida de Circumvalacion [Bypass Avenue], a few meters from the Yaque del Norte River.

The director of FORESTA gave the Hoyo de Lima Industrial Company three days to discontinue the practice of dumping polluting waste products into the river.

Col Pedro de Jesus Candelier, the former director of FORESTA, gave the Hoyo de Lima Industrial Company several warnings to complete construction of its sewage treatment plant.

FORESTA also closed canning factories belonging to La Victoria and La Rochi Canning Companies. The plant belonging to La Victoria is on the highway between Santiago and Tamboril. It has been proved that it was dumping liquid and solid wastes into a small stream. The plant belonging to La Rochi was dumping waste into a ravine. FORESTA also closed a slaughterhouse which was operating illegally.

In Licey la Medio FORESTA definitively closed down the "Cibao" battery factory, after clinical analyses proved that people living in the area had traces of lead in their blood.

On the other hand the FORESTA authorities closed down the Ribera, Camarena, y Fernandez Company in La Vega for extracting material from the Camu River.

The director general of FORESTA stated that he will visit all companies between Santiago and Montecristi involved in dumping liquid and solid waste into the Yaque del Norte River. All of these plants which do not comply in a reasonable time with Presidential Decree 226 will be closed down. Last week the director general had a meeting with many employers to discuss the matter of the pollution of the Yaque del Norte River.

During the director general's meetings on 8 February he was accompanied by Leonardo Vasquez Jerez, regional director of FORESTA, and Dr Tobias Rosario, director of the Ecological Drainage Commission.

During the past few weeks there has been an increase in the number of complaints published in the press on the pollution of the Yaque del Norte River.

## Haiti

### Butrus-Ghali 'Angry' Over Leaders' Not Coming to Terms With Caputo

*FL2004113193 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1100 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is angry over the latest failure of Haitian leaders to come to terms with the UN envoy Dante Caputo. It was with much optimism that Mr. Caputo went to Haiti last week for the fifth time to try to negotiate a return to power of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. He even took with him an offer of amnesty for the leaders of the coup that ousted President Aristide, but the Haitian leaders refused to budge and Mr. Caputo returned with nothing. Mr. Butrus-Ghali said his organization will no longer fool around with what he called dilatory tactics and that he will now study what measures to take in the coming days.

### Bazin Gives Speech on UN Special Envoy's Negotiation Strategy

*FL2104032593 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 0003 GMT 21 Apr 93*

[Speech by Prime Minister Marc Louis Bazin in Port-au-Prince on 21 April—recorded; italicized passages in French]

[Text] My fellow compatriots, dear friends: The last time I spoke to you, I told you I would see you very soon. I am sure you did not expect very soon to come so quickly. Tonight I would like to tell you what happened during the latest visit by the special envoy to Haiti.

Precisely what happened is that yesterday I heard about a telegram that had come over the teleprinter stating that the special envoy presented a plan to the Marc Bazin government and that the government rejected the plan. Tonight I would like to tell you, Haitian people and the international community, that I am categorically and formally denying this allegation. It is simply not true. We know that for two or three weeks now, certain people have been trying to intimidate the country with misinformation, contradiction, and manipulation. We usually do not answer these things. We do not answer them because we feel that if it is just a battle of words, it is nothing serious.

Today the situation is serious, however. The situation is serious because on the basis of a false report, the UN secretary general, according to our understanding of the telegram, is going to ask the General Assembly to increase sanctions against Haiti. We could therefore not help but react today, contrary to our usual behavior because usually one man says this, another says something else. But this time we have proof that Caputo is lying. Not only did Caputo not present any plan to us, but during the time he spent here, we did not meet with him, not even once.

What is the proof then? The proof is a letter, in black and white, that he sent us. In this letter, he explains the reasons he cannot meet with me. He says, *I would not like—and I am quoting—for such a meeting to be misinterpreted as my agreement to discuss the plan you proposed. Therefore, here is a gentleman who* says he is a mediator involved in negotiating a conflict of this much importance but who tells you that he refuses to discuss your plan. He also tells you that the only way he will agree to meet with you is if, in advance and unconditionally, you agree to everything he asks you for.

I am going to publish his letter. I am also going to publish mine. I am sure that all of you will agree with me that his letter is unacceptable in content and in form. Even more so because he added that *the changes would occur in any case, and furthermore, he added, and I quote, it is a matter of hours. Therefore, not only was it not acceptable, it was not even very coherent.* This guy who tells you today you must pay a price to meet him is the same guy who, two months ago, was signing an agreement with the consensus government for implementing a civilian mission in Haiti. In the terms of reference of the civilian mission, *it is clearly stated that political discussion would be the objective of the mission.* The plan I propose is a plan with elements very important to political talks.

Not only has no plan been presented to us, but our major problem with this special envoy is that if he has a plan at all, it is only in his mind. It is in his mind and nobody has yet seen the whole plan. Sometimes, when you look at him, you feel that he is very content to go from group to group of Haitians and that when he meets with someone he takes the portion of the plan that interests that person, shows it to him—as if he were a Mardi Gras character [lamayot]—and then seals it. For example, we

have heard that there is supposedly $1 billion, which is to make the private sector happy. Between you and me, the private sector successfully unmasked him with its excellent communique of 16 April. He also raised the question of amnesty for the Army, which requires at least an explanation.

*The current negotiation strategy of the special envoy is apparently based on the hypothesis that the Haitian people are completely incapable of sitting around the same table. It is, in a way, translation in practical terms of the famous theory of chromosomes that everybody still remembers today. The special envoy's strategy does not respect any Haitian regardless of his political affiliation, but it is also a strategy of failure because there is political fiction surrounding it.*

*When has one ever seen, in any country, in any historical period, so serious a crisis resolved through diplomatic hide-and-seek? How can one believe that a solution—I say solution, quote, unquote—reached under such conditions could effectively endure? On the contrary, what is necessary is a diplomacy that takes into account, in a global way, all the parameters of the crisis and tries to unite the protagonists around the same table. If we cannot, may we come to an agreement so all the cards can be on the table at the same time, then, in the presence of friends, true foreign friends, we Haitians can begin talking to play a natural game, making reciprocal concessions. I say aloud that we are all ready to make compromises.*

It is in this spirit of overture, it is in this spirit of compromise that I will soon write, by special mail, the representatives of the most important political blocs in the parliament, in particular the leaders of the Alliance [for Parliamentary Cohesion], the leaders of the Socialist Bloc, and the leaders of the National Front for Change and Democracy to ask them to join with us, with other forces, to sit and try to see whether, *as sons of the same homeland, we can together seek a consensual way out of the crisis.* You can say whatever you want, Caputo, Caputo [repeats], that is fine. But when all is said and done, and*he has returned to his native Pampa, it is here and here alone, beyond political crisis arising out of circumstance, it is here on this tired and stormy land—but belonging to us—it is on this land that all of us, political personalities, all of us, our children, it is on this land and nowhere else that we are condemned to live, to coexist in sadness and in joy.*

It follows that any solution that is not the result of real, frank negotiation among Haitians could impose itself only through force, whereas a solution through force would not solve anything, in addition to the fact that it would endanger national sovereignty. What does it mean for someone to say that it is through force that they wish to resolve this conflict?

It means that you have nothing to lose. It means that you are willing to accept any solution regardless of the price in terms of human lives, in terms of political instability, and in terms of national humiliation. This solution is not ours; it is not the one for Haitians. If the special envoy wishes to succeed, he must change his method. If he does not want to change his method, we would end up in what American white men call a mess because without a unique document that everyone can see, read, discuss, and eventually sign, *—and which determines the rights and duties of each of the parties—what would govern the relationships among the parties? The government of consensus and public safety;*that is, we who have received a mandate to negotiate. That is also why tonight we wanted to lay out our responsibilities to the people. We have a plan. We see nothing else on the table. There is not even a table.

The government will not support any attempts to solve this crisis through a mysterious combination based on sector-based discussions among parties dispersed in space. The final product of such a negotiation would by necessity and logic be without any internal coherence, and without credible mutual consent. In any case, such trivial discussions could not substitute for a global joint plan, and without serious negotiation with the government of consensus and public safety. May the God of the believers help us and support us. Thank you for you attention.

### MDN Warns Army Against Accepting Aristide's Promise of Amnesty

*FL2004154093 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The Mobilization for National Development [MDN] has warned the Haitian Army against accepting the amnesty that the ousted president has promised to grant the military, those who participated in the 30 September 1991 coup. The MDN, when referring to what happened long ago in the country's history, reminds the Army that over 5,000 partisans of Rigaud died in the south of the country after Toussaint Louverture granted a similar amnesty to Rigaud and his partisans. So, the MDN believes that all 7,000 members of the Army risk dying if the Haitian military ever accepts the amnesty promised by Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

In view of such a situation, the MDN calls on the Haitian Armed Forces to unite and for all its partisans throughout the country to avoid any form of provocation and to prepare to defend itself at the proper time. Hubert de Ronceray's party has taken this stand following the ousted Haitian president's statements, 10 days ago, that he would grant the military the same amnesty that was granted to Rigaud by Toussaint Louverture.

### OAS Coordinator on Civilian Mission's Role To Resolve 'Crisis'

*FL2004221793 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Excerpt] The coordinator of the OAS civilian mission in the Northeast Department said there is a big difference between Caputo's work to resolve the Haitian crisis and

the work being done by the civilian mission. According to this observer, while Caputo is playing a political role in the negotiations as the representative of the United Nations and the OAS, the civilian mission's role is to observe, report, and prepare documents on human rights conditions in the country. The observer made this clarification because he says he's noted much confusion on the roles played by the two entities in the Haitian crisis. Here are details by our correspondent, Fritz Abellard:

[Begin Abellard recording] Michel Jovin, the Canadian coordinator of the OAS/UN civilian mission in the northeast, stated that Mr. Caputo and the civilian mission are playing separate roles in the Haitian crisis, quite different roles. Caputo is conducting political negotiations. He is a UN/OAS envoy who is meeting with the Port-au-Prince authorities for the return of democracy to Haiti. The role of the civilian mission, on the other hand, is to observe, report, and prepare documents on what is called respect for human rights. So the work of the mission is not the same as that of Mr. Caputo. Jovin goes on to tell us that when he listens to Haitian radio and reads the newspaper, he realizes that there is a lack of understanding as to the role of the mission in Haiti, that there is total confusion, and that the information is mixed together. This is why his mission, since arriving in Fort Liberte, has distributed 200 to 300 copies of the terms of reference of the mission. [passage omitted] [end recording]

### 'Liberal Democrat Party' Formed in Port-au-Prince

*FL2004154993 Port-au-Prince LE NOUVELLISTE in French No. 34.521 19 Apr 93 p 12*

[From "The Buzz in the News" column]

[Text] A new political party has been formed in Port-au-Prince. Christophe Philippe Charles, poet, writer, and journalist, has just published the first two editions of the official publication of his "Liberal Democrat Party" [Parti Liberal Democrate] under the title: "The Future." According to the founder of the party, the "future in Haiti today belongs to liberalism. Haiti's future lies in liberal capitalism." Charles pleads, in his weekly, for a constitutional revision and an institutional revolution.

## Jamaica

### JLP Parliamentarians Boycott Swearing-In

*FL2104000593 Bridgetown CANA in English 2151 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, April 20, CANA—In line with their threat to partially boycott Parliament in protest against widespread irregularities in the March 30 general election, opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) parliamentarians stayed away Tuesday from the formal swearing-in of members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Sixty-three parliamentarians from the ruling Peoples National Party (PNP), including 50 elected members of the House of Representatives and 13 senators, formally took the oath of allegiance to the head of state, Queen Elizabeth II, her heirs and successors, at a special sitting of Parliament.

The deputy prime minister and leader of government business in the House of Representatives, Seymour Mullings, [words indistinct] sitting that the results of only 56 of the 60 constituencies had so far been finally decided since the controversial election—50 for the PNP and six for the JLP.

Final vote counting is still taking place in West Rural St. Andrew while magisterial recounts are to take place in North East St. Andrew, Central Clarendon, and South Western St. Ann.

Analysts predict that at the end of the final counting and various court actions, the PNP will end with 52 seats and the JLP eight.

The failure of the JLP parliamentarians to take their oath of allegiance Tuesday followed the party's decision not to appoint its eight senators allowed under the Constitution and to attend only the legally required minimum number of meetings of the House of Representatives in order to retain their seats.

Independent observers and both political parties have reported ballot box stuffing and voter intimidation in at least 13 mainly urban constituencies, violence which took the lives of 14 people including an electoral returning officer, and considerable administrative bungling during the election.

Opposition leader Edward Seaga has said the JLP only retreat [as received] from its position of "partial boycott" if Prime Minister Percival Patterson agrees to set up a commission of enquiry into the elections.

Seaga also called for the resignation of director of elections, Noel Lee, and Police Commissioner Roy Thompson, accusing both of misconduct during the election.

Patterson has rejected Seaga's demands, declaring that the law was already equipped to address complaints of electoral malpractice. He has also pledged the support of the government for a complete overhaul of the electoral system.

Questioned as to how the JLP will decide on which sittings of the House of Representatives to attend, party spokesman Hector Wynter told CANA: "The JLP will be there when it is necessary to be there." Asked whether priority would be given to the budget debate expected to start next month, Wynter said "that will have to be decided."

At Tuesday's swearing-in ceremony, Karl Marshall, a teacher, was appointed speaker of the House of Representatives. His deputy will be another teacher, Violet

Nielson. Returned as president of the Senate is the veteran politician Winston Jones while Syringa Marshall-Burnett, a retired nurse, is his deputy.

## St. Lucia

### Parliament Restates Support for Caribbean Integration

*FL2004174993 Bridgetown CANA in English 1726 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Castries, St. Lucia, April 20, CANA—St. Lucia on Tuesday restated firm support for Caribbean integration but mentioned its misgivings about the establishment of a bureau of heads of government to monitor implementation of decisions taken at Caribbean Community (Caricom) summits. Opening a new session of parliament, Governor-General Sir Stanislaus James said St. Lucia supported the proposal of the West Indian Commission for the establishment of "a permament (Caricom) Commission headed by a commissioner supported by two commissioners and serviced by an independent secretariat." The Caricom Bureau, comprising three heads of government, was set up in place of the Caricom Commission.

Despite its misgivings, Sir Stanislaus said, "my government will nevertheless lend its support to the present arrangements as its commitment to the process of West Indian cooperation and integration remains undiminished." He said St. Lucia also was "unwavering in its commitment to the process of OECS [Organization Eastern Caribbean States] unity."

St. Lucia along with Dominica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines which are members of the sub-regional Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States have agreed in principle on the need for formation of a political union. A referendum on the matter is pending in the four countries.

Sir Stanislaus issued an appeal to the three other governments "to proceed with deliberate haste to implement the recommendations of the RCA (Regional Constituent Assembly which debated the political union proposal) by holding the referendum as soon as possible."

On the issue of restoring democracy in Haiti, the St. Lucia governor-general said Castries would continue lending support to initiatives aimed at reinstating exiled President Jean Bertrand Aristide who was toppled in a 1991 military coup.

Sir Stanislaus referred to successful elections in Guyana, the Bahamas, and Jamaica over the past year and making a comparison with Haiti, said "these events are ample proof.... of the concept of democracy as our only accepted and acceptable form of government."

"The same unfortunately cannot be said of Haiti as this unfortunate country continues to bleed after decades of dictatorship," he added. "St. Lucia will continue to support the efforts of the United Nations and the Organisation of American States to bring peace, democracy, and stability to this troubled land."

## Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

### Labor Party Claims 'Crisis' in Health Service

*FL2004200793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1820 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, April 20, CANA—The main opposition St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party claims there is a crisis in the health service here. Party leader Stanley John told a rally in the capital, Kingstown, problems were mounting at the country's main hospital, Kingstown General. John charged that relatives had to provide food, prescribed medication, and linen for patients because the hospital lacked these items. Vincentian doctors trained abroad, he said, "are finding it impossible to work in the health service" because of a lack of a clear perception by government.

"The situation is becoming so desperate ... That the people of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are no longer able to [words indistinct] down," he remarked. John also accused Prime Minister James Mitchell, an agronomist, of presiding over the demise of the agricultural sector. He told party supporters the national debt, in excess of 500 million East Caribbean dollars (one EC dollar = 37 U.S. cents), was too high. When two controversial tourism-related projects were taken into consideration, he said, the country's national debt would exceed EC1 billion dollars.

## Trinidad and Tobago

### 'Disgruntled' Unemployment Relief Program Workers Demonstrate

*FL2004210093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1951 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, April 20, CANA—A demonstration in downtown Port of Spain by disgruntled Unemployment Relief Programme workers caused store owners to hurriedly shut their doors Tuesday morning. About 150 workers from the Laventille West area of the government's Unemployment Relief Programme [URP] came into the capital from their work area about two miles to the east of the city, to protest against the dismissal of the area coordinator, Edmund Charles.

Store owners, fearing a repeat of the looting incidents of Holy Thursday, took no chances and shut up shop shortly before noon. The offices of the Ministry of Works, which administers the programme, were also closed as armed policemen cordoned off lower Frederick Street from vehicular traffic and were posted outside the nearby Edward Street offices of the ministry.

On Holy Thursday, URP workers of the same district went on a rampage, looting shops and supermarkets in the downtown area with two malls being particularly hard hit. Then the problem surrounded the inability of the ministry to have paychecks ready in time for the long Easter weekend.

The coordinator told CANA his dismissal was prompted by what the authorities described as payroll padding, a problem which has bedevilled this programme from its inception in the 1960's when it was originally called the Crash Programme. Since then it has been through two more name changes, the Development and Environmental Works Division (DEWD), and the Labour Intensive Development Programme (LID). The programme is designed to provide jobs for unskilled labourers in the main, and was born out of the need to have rioting steelbandsmen of the 60's employed outside the carnival season.

Minister of Works Colm Imbert was at the Salvatori Building office of the URP on Frederick Street when the demonstrators appeared.

## Violence, Casualties Reported in Oaxaca Elections

*PA2004123193 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Report by Juan Manuel Vinon in Oaxaca]

[Excerpts] Special elections were held in Oaxaca State and some irregularities have been reported in Huautla de Jimenez and Santo Domingo Petapa Municipalities. Political tension resulted in violence among Party of the Democratic Revolution [PRD], [words indistinct], and Institutional Revolutionary Party activists in Santo Domingo Petapa on 18 April.

Tragedy marked an electoral process that should have resulted in the election of municipal authorities. The communities are now mourning. Silvira Juarez, 70, died on 18 April after her face was burned with tear gas. Other women also sustained tear gas burns. [passage omitted]

Six PRD members sustained bullet wounds and 28 members of different parties sustained various injuries. They were all taken to hospitals, clinics, and private clinics for medical attention. [passage omitted]

Official figures reported on 18 April indicate 15 were injured and no one was killed, but the reality is different. Political groups blame each other but they agree on one thing—events must be thoroughly and impartially investigated, and the culprits must be severely punished according to the law.

## PRD Demonstrators Protest Violence

*PA2004192593 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] A group of demonstrators of the Party of the Democratic Revolution, PRD, staged a march through various parts of Mexico City. The march ended in front of the Government Secretariat offices, where a meeting was held.

During the demonstration, PRD leaders sent Government Secretary Jose Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido a document establishing their position with regard to the post-electoral conflict in Guerrero State. In this regard, the Government Secretariat issued the following communique:

The gubernatorial elections in Guerrero State were carried out in keeping with the law, electoral organization principles, and defined procedures under the sovereignty of this state. The Government Secretariat has no authority to revise the actions by appropriate organizations under Guerrero State jurisdiction.

The Government Secretariat, however, is empowered to maintain relations with state entities and, thus, it recognizes the authority who has been legally elected in accordance with the law and procedures established in Guerrero State.

The Government Secretariat said it could promote a dialogue on this issue, as long as it is carried out in strict compliance with the law and respect for the resolutions issued. This would only be possible with the authorization and participation of the state government, because otherwise it would represent interference in the administration of this state, resulting in a violation of the state's sovereignty.

## Salinas Vows To Maintain Economic Strategy

*PA2004211193 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Report by Claudio Guzman]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari has reaffirmed that the current economic strategy and fiscal discipline will be maintained. He rejected the proposal made by those who created a 200-percent inflation rate and a recession in order to grow at a faster pace.

The president made the aforementioned statements during the opening of the Fourth Stock Market Convention.

Mexico will maintain its fiscal discipline and, in general, the strategy implemented to stabilize the economy, because it would not be prudent to grow at a faster pace amid a world trend of low growth and at a time when we have just overcome high inflation, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said during the opening of the Fourth Stock Market Convention.

[Begin Salinas recording] The proponents of higher inflation in order to supposedly grow at a faster pace are the ones who created an inflation rate of nearly 200 percent and recession in our country.

What we have accomplished in Mexico is the result of a decisive collective effort to consolidate results. It is the response to those who recommended a change of course from what had cost us so much work and sacrifice to achieve. We will firmly maintain the pursued economic strategy. [end recording]

Prior to making the above statements, the president summed up the four-year results of his economic policy, which resulted in reduced inflation, sustained economic growth above population growth, capitalization of productive apparatus, and economic stability. He reported the progress made in the first two months of 1993, as follows:

1. In February the consumer price index went up by 0.6 percent, which is the lowest rate in the last 22 years. The producer price index went up by 0.3 percent, which is lower than the rate registered in the United States.

2. Exports grew at a faster pace than imports.

3. In January the industrial production registered an annualized growth rate of 3.7 percent, with a significant increase in construction.

However, the president explained that it is imperative to strengthen the financial markets in order to achieve a greater capitalization of the productive apparatus. In this regard, he referred to the proposal made by Manuel Robleda, president of the Mexican Stock Market, to implement measures to turn our country into an international financial center, where trade of international stocks can be effected.

[Begin Salinas recording] I have instructed the finance secretary to present, no later than 10 days from now, the points on the initiatives that will be submitted to Congress this period to increase the competitiveness of the stock market of our country. [end recording]

The stock market convention is scheduled to end Tuesday, 20 April.

## Government Levies 'Compensatory' Import Duties

*PA1604031593 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 15 Apr 93*

[Report by Patricia Gutierrez]

[Text] Dr. Jaime Serra Puche, commerce and industrial development secretary, announced that on 16 April Mexico will begin applying preliminary compensatory import duties on 10 products imported from China [as heard] that are sold under unfair competition.

[Begin Serra Puche recording] Opening of the Mexican economy seeks fair international market competition in good faith to induce greater Mexican export competitiveness and capacity. We will not allow unfair trade practices to affect the country's industrial base. [end recording]

Serra Puche announced that the compensatory import duties range between 16 percent and 1,105 percent. The products that will be affected from 16 April on are: toys, shoes, textiles, clothing, chemicals, bicycles, electrical appliances, tools, steel, and fluorite connections.

Serra Puche said that this is the first time compensatory import duties were applied at the beginning of an investigation, which in addition, was started by the government. He said that imports from China over the past two years increased by 2,731 percent. During 1992, Mexican purchases from China totaled $300 million, which represents only 1 percent of total Mexican imports [as heard].

## Bancomext, Andean Development Corporation Sign Agreement

*PA2004200693 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0915 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Apr (NOTIMEX)—The National Foreign Trade Bank (Bancomext) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the representative of the Andean Group in the financial sector, signed a financial agreement for $30 million on 19 April.

Upon signing the 1993-1995 Work Program in Mexico City, Bancomext Director Jose Angel Gurria Trevino said Mexico can provide the Andean Group countries with its experience in handling investment for development.

Gurria said that, in the past few years, investment in Mexico grew at a rate of approximately 20 percent, three times the economic growth rate.

The resources produced by the investment have been used to replace equipment, purchase goods, and increase the export capacity of the productive sector.

The agreement will allow the Mexican bank to share its experience in investments with the Andean Group nations to open new sources of financing and identify feasible joint investment projects.

With the agreement, Mexico becomes the first country to hold capital stock in the Andean Group development program.

Gurria signed the agreement for Mexico. CAF Director Enrique Garcia Rodriguez signed the agreement for Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

## Costa Rica

### Honduran President Callejas Ends Two-Day Visit

*PA2104030193 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 21 Apr 93*

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon and Honduran President Rafael Leonardo Callejas have agreed to work toward regional economic integration as a means of improving the Central American peoples' living conditions and to strengthen the region's negotiating position at the international level.

At the conclusion of his two-day visit, the Honduran president reiterated his absolute respect for the Costa Rican decision not to adopt the northern triangle's political decisions. Both agreed, however, on the need to continue their efforts to get the EEC to lift its banana import restrictions. They also regretted that a new international coffee agreement has not been reached.

The implementation of the Central American Integration System, SICA, established in the Tegucigalpa Protocol is the proper legal instrument for regional integration, according to the Costa Rican and Honduran presidents.

Our country will soon sign the Tegucigalpa Protocol, and the treaty is being discussed at the Legislative Assembly, the Costa Rican president told his Honduran colleague. Both presidents talked about the importance of the participation of the various private Central American sectors in the new regional integration process as a fundamental element for the achievement of a real free trade system.

Regarding the importance of the EEC and Rio Group ministerial conference scheduled to be held in Denmark on 24 and 25 April, the Costa Rican and Honduran presidents talked about the need to intensify political dialogue in search of effective and fair trade mechanisms with Europe. The two presidents said they hope the EEC will bear in mind the economic and social needs of Latin American banana-producing countries and adopt measures to lift restrictions on the import of the fruit. The presidents also rejected the new taxes on Latin American bananas entering Europe because they violate the principles of the GATT and hurt the economies and workers of Latin American nations.

The establishment of a free trade zone in the Central American region is a common goal, Honduran President Rafael Callejas said at the end of a two-day visit to Costa Rica. The efforts should be aimed at creating better trade relations among the Central American nations, the goals of which are to create a free trade zone in the region. Callejas said Costa Rica, which exports 17 percent of the region's products, could increase that figure to 30 percent this year.

The protectionist practices the EEC is trying to impose could permanently damage the banana industries of Costa Rica, Honduras, and the rest of Latin America, according to Honduran President Rafael Callejas. He said the Costa Rican president has assumed a fundamental leadership, which has led to the creation of action groups to bring proposals before the GATT as well as political actions at the EEC. Honduras will support Costa Rica in this action in an attempt to prevent the Latin American banana industry from being hurt.

The reduction of U.S. aid for Central America is something we must learn to live with because the aid has been gradually reduced, Callejas said. That is why it is important for us to strengthen the free trade zone, Central American integration, and instruments such as the Central American Bank, which are alternatives for us, the Honduran president said. Undoubtedly bilateral sources of financing will be less and less accessible, and we will have no option but to resort to international financial institutions where some of our countries will no longer have access to credit under favorable conditions because the countries that financially support those institutions have reduced that support.

### President Announces IMF Approval of Funds

*PA2004151293 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] President Rafael Angel Calderon Fournier announced that the IMF has approved the stand-by [previous word in English] agreement for 1993. The president said the IMF approval is especially important to the government during an election campaign period. He added that since the IMF will verify progress toward the goals every three months, the loan is in line with the discipline program for public finances.

Calderon Fournier said his government is not willing to throw all its efforts overboard and assured that Costa Ricans will not suffer in the future. He said the next government will inherit a stable and peaceful country, one where continued progress is ensured.

One of the government's main commitments with the IMF is to maintain and consolidate the public sector deficit at 1 percent of the GNP. The president asserted that his administration has reduced its foreign debt with the increase in exports and in compliance with the agreements reached by the previous government. Calderon Fournier added that the foreign debt is not a serious problem. He said the domestic debt is more serious and, thus, the government will propose a tax efficiency law to resolve the problem.

The president stated that the agreement reached with the IMF will encourage support from the international financial world. Calderon added the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank have given their support to Costa Rica and this is a clear sign that the country has managed to bring its finances into order.

The president said this represents support by the international financing organizations for Costa Rican financial and

social policies and that this in turn opens the doors to refinancing the country's debt with the Paris Club.

The agreement approved by the IMF for Costa Rica is equivalent to $29.7 million. The government will impose upon itself fiscal and monetary discipline that will guarantee the country stability and growth in 1993. The IMF directors recognized the economic policy and the growth attained through the structural adjustment, all of which makes possible the people's progress and well-being. The increase in exports is fundamental, but, in view of the constant capital revenue, the government must make greater efforts in the fiscal field to move from deficit to surplus, some IMF directors said.

## El Salvador

### Cristiani Wants Amnesty Within Legal Framework

*PA2104012893 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p3*

[Text] During a 19 April news conference, President Alfredo Cristiani said: "I requested and believe that there must be a total and absolute amnesty, but always within the framework of the country's laws."

Broaching the amnesty issue, Cristiani said the only tenets that are over and above the amnesty law are international treaties and the country's Constitution.

He noted: "In our legislation the Constitution comes first, then the international treaties ratified by our country, and then the secondary law; in this case, the amnesty law."

Cristiani said that so far the government has only received one request from the judicial branch; that which concerns the marines killed in Zona Rosa. The question is whether they had diplomatic protection, and it is being asked because an international treaty can be applied if that is the case. "The Foreign Ministry already informed the judicial branch that in 1987 the government had expressed and confirmed that the marines had such protection. Therefore, the judge will have to apply his criteria to this case," the president added.

That is the only case on which the executive branch has been consulted. The judicial branch must apply the amnesty law in these cases (within the country's legal framework). It is not within the executive branch's responsibilities to apply it.

Regrding the reorganization of the Defense Ministry, Cristiani said a minister will be appointed in due time. He did not venture any opinion on the matter. He merely disclosed that the Defense Ministry will be reorganized in due time.

For the time being, he stated, the post of deputy minister will remain vacant until a complete reorganization can take place. The reorganization will be carried out according to a program that has already been revealed to the UN secretary general.

### FMLN Supports Request To Delay U.S. Deportations

*PA2004032393 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Report by Maria Teresa Fajardo]

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] joined the government to request that the U.S. Government extend the temporary protection law to Salvadoran immigrants who are currently living in the United States. The FMLN political party says that conditions of social instability and lack of security continue, thus the U.S. Government should accept the petition to extend the temporary period up to 18 months.

[Begin FMLN Representative Facundo Gaurdado recording] Approximately 500,000 fellow countrymen are threatened with deportation. The system of deferred deportation ends on 31 June. The FMLN wants to state that we feel the reasons our fellow countrymen migrated to the United States continue, especially the insecurity and the threats. As you already know, the judicial system has not yet been purged, citizens do not have security, and some death squads continue to operate. We, therefore, expect a decided commitment by the Clinton administration to solve this problem and allow our fellow countrymen to stay at least 18 more months in the United States until we find a definite solution to the problem. We feel this is a commitment to peace, a commitment to the democratization of El Salvador, and a commitment already expressed by President Clinton's administration. There are many sympathizers in the U.S. Congress and we hope the administration will agree to this extension. The fellow Salvadorans in the United States are the true patriots; they are the persons who are injecting foreign currency to allow employment in El Salvador, which allow hundreds of families to survive here. These fellow Salvadorans are the persons we need to support.

Unlike the powerful economic sector that took money out of El Salvador and continues to send it overseas, our poor brothers are the ones who are helping support the Salvadoran economy. This is why they deserve our decided support. [end recording]

Facundo Guardado said that all sectors should speak out on this situation because it would be chaotic to receive 500,000 Salvadorans, which would have serious social repercussions. The U.S. Government is committed to the peace process and this should be more important than the upcoming legal application, the former guerrilla argued.

A FMLN delegation is currently in the United States to learn of the process and make proposals as well, Guardado concluded.

### President Cristiani Suggests Coffee Sale Strategy

*PA2004160193 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] President Alfredo Cristiani has stated that the failure of international negotiation mechanisms for marketing coffee can be overcome through formulas of internal cooperation among coffee producers. He made this statement in response to an announcement regarding the temporary end of negotiations for an international agreement in view of the International Coffee Organization's failure in London.

Central America should take the initiative to design a strategy that will serve as the basis to coordinate the sale of coffee on the international market, President Cristiani stated at a news conference. Reporters had waited 45 minutes for the president to appear. President Cristiani told them that the Salvadoran Coffee Council cannot be dissolved, because the country needs an entity to control the transactions of this basic Salvadoran product.

### University Election Poll Results Favor Arena

*PA2004213693 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, Arena, would get the most votes, followed by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and the Christian Democratic Party, PDC, if elections were held today in El Salvador, according to a poll conducted by the Central American University, UCA.

The polling of 1.212 million Salvadorans in urban sectors of the 14 departments from 13 to 20 February showed that if the March 1994 elections were held now, Arena would garner 16.9 percent of the votes. The FMLN would be second with 7.3 percent, followed by the PDC with 6.9 percent. The leftist Democratic Convergence appears to be relegated to 1.7 percent, which means that the opposition must form a coalition if it wants to beat the ruling right.

Of the persons polled, 48 percent abstained from responding, and 14.4 percent said they would not vote for any of the 10 political parties in El Salvador.

## Guatemala

### Defense Minister Responds to URNG Communique

*PA2004143493 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p 35*

[Communique issued by Defense Minister General Jose Garcia Samayoa in response to a Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, URNG, communique, in Guatemala City on 15 April]

[Text] In no manner and at no time has General Jose Garcia Samayoa, the defense minister, made statements "in an abusively rash manner," as charged by the self-styled clandestine terrorist organization, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). Rather, the general responded to the rebels' pretensions regarding the issue of "Army Reduction." This issue has been taken into consideration in the talks with the Central American armies for over two years given that the subversives traditionally imported foreign models, ideologies, and doctrines, and would attempt by all means available to insert, as it subsequently did, the same negotiating framework used in El Salvador.

We do not belong to any radical sector, as they irresponsibly say. We respond to a patriotic duty to defend from the ideological, political, and armed aggression of the URNG, a self-styled terrorist organization at the service of foreign interests. It is an honor and a matter of pride to defend the dignity and heritage of the Guatemalans.

The Guatemalan Armed Forces want to achieve peace and support the peace negotiations. We were the first to propose this since the 1970's as we had faith in our responsibility, awareness, and sincerity. We knew the insurgency would place obstacles to extend the negotiating process, attempting to reach a consensus and thereby unite its forces to gain for itself a political opening. In this way, it could foster more effectively its proclaimed "revolutionary struggle." The people defeated them politically and the people, with their army, will defeat them militarily.

The statements by the aforementioned illegal organization are an attempt to create a smoke screen to distort international opinion on the crimes it has committed such as:

a. The murder of U.S. Ambassador John Gordon Mein.
b. The murders of Army Colonel John D. Webber and Navy Captain Ernest Munroe.
c. The kidnapping, torture, and subsequent murder of Count Karl von Spretti, the then FRG ambassador.
d. The massacre of personnel at the Spanish Embassy; Antonio Ruiz de Arbol, first secretary; Eduardo Rafael Caceres Lenjoff, former Guatemalan vice president; Adolfo Molina Orantes, former foreign minister, and other Guatemalans deceived by fanaticism and ignorance.
e. The murders of distinguished reporters Isidoro Zarco and Mario Ribas Montes as well as of other Guatemalan citizens.
f. Trials pending for the trafficking and storing of war materiel in Tehuacan, Puebla, Mexico. They put in danger the lives and possessions of children, women, and the elderly, thereby disregarding and lacking respect for the hospitality offered by Mexico.

To all the above, one must add the crimes, robberies, destruction of basic public service infrastructure, fires, and terrorism unleashed for over three decades against the Guatemalan people.

They do not believe in God nor in the Christian faith of our people, but they make use of the religion.

They attempt to deceive the unwary, making them believe they seek the good of all, but in truth they take advantage of poverty and injustice. What ethical and moral right do the recalcitrant representatives of an obsolete ideology have to teach us how to live in democracy, respect human rights, and eliminate impunity? All they are familiar with is totalitarianism, dictatorship, and disregard for man's basic rights and their clandestineness makes it possible for them to remain unpunished.

Let the Guatemalan people decide who is responsible for the negligible progress in the peace talks.

The people of Guatemala want peace. The people's voice is God's voice. If the people so desire, we will attain peace.

[Issued] Guatemala City, 15 April 1993.

## Press Secretary Alvarado on Peace Talks with URNG

*PA2004150693 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 6*

[Report by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Public Relations Secretary Arturo Alvarado has said that URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] leaders have not been offered the opportunity to form part of the government.

Manuel Conde [head of the government delegation to the peace talks with the URNG] actually restated the government's long-term position: Since its military argument has been defeated, the URNG should join the country's political life and exercise power through democratic procedures, if they win the elections, added the official government spokesman.

Alvarado asserted that Conde clearly said he believes the URNG could govern, as long as it is in accordance with the law and through the established democratic processes. That indicates it would be through elections and democratic processes.

Arturo Alvarado carefully explained that Conde has in no way invited the URNG leadership to join the current government but to attempt to exercise power through politics and democratic processes.

A report from CERIGUA states that Conde made a statement to LA JORNADA and said that "the Guatemalan Government, as a demonstration of willingness to reach a cease-fire, does not reject the possibility of incorporating the URNG leadership into the government."

The report adds that: "After the suspension of the previous round of talks, which he refused to consider a failure, Conde added that we now come with a really open attitude and are willing to find a solution that may allow the guerrillas to come out with a dignified position."

The CERIGUA report adds: "Conde stated that the government would accept the presence of UN blue helmet security forces to guarantee the implementation of the peace agreements."

Alvarado said this was a personal interpretation by the reporter, who asked Conde whether the Guatemalan Government would accept UN intervention to verify the cease-fire. Conde answered that the government has always said it would accept UN verification of the cease-fire. But he never mentioned the "blue helmets," which would mean the presence of troops and not observers.

## Army Denies Accusation Made by Peten Church Officials

*PA2004160393 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 27*

[Statement issued by the Army Information and Press Department in Guatemala City on 12 April]

[Text] This is not the first time a malicious accusation has been leveled against the Guatemalan Army in an attempt to discredit it before the local and international community.

The accusation made against the armed institution must be supported by corroborating evidence presented in the appropriate courts, otherwise it constitutes slander and defamation.

Because we respect the rule of law that prevails in the country and are aware of the real and legal existence of freedom of religion, it makes no sense to try to accuse the Guatemalan Army of allegedly threatening catechists, as some would have people believe.

It is extremely surprising that the "bishop and pastoral agents of the Peten Apostolic Vicar's Office" have not spoken out in the face of the proven acts of human rights violations, abuses, and attacks perpetrated by the self-styled Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] against local and alien residents, including the oil spill and the attack on the Stolfus family, whose hospital boat, house, and belongings were set on fire, although they provided humanitarian care to hundreds of needy peasants.

Regardless of the constant attacks against the people by the criminal delinquents grouped under the URNG, who attack defenseless rural villages and steal money and food from the working Guatemalans in road and highway holdups. [sentence as published]

Despite the slanderous attacks, the Guatemalan Army supports the dialogue the government is holding with the rebels to seek a firm and lasting peace and to fulfill the yearning for welfare with social justice of the Guatemalan people, of whom we are a part.

[Issued] Guatemala City, 12 April 1993.

[Signed] Information and Press Department of the Army. "1993—Year of Reconciliation and Peace."

### Conde on Refusal To Meet With Civilian Group in Mexico

*PA2104034693 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Reports from Mexico City indicate that members of the government negotiating team involved in talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] refused to meet with representatives of the Coordinating Board of Civilian Groups [CSC]. The official delegation granted a news conference upon arriving at La Aurora International Airport. Here is what delegation head Manuel Conde said:

[Begin Conde recording] All cards are on the negotiating table. The overall scheme for the negotiation of agreements on human rights and a timetable are on the table. The parties involved, that is, the conciliator, UN observer, and group of friendly countries, which is now very close to our peace process, are aware of them.

The government peace commission wishes to report that we are close to an agreement on these issues because there are clear positions, and the people I mentioned are aware of them. The conciliator has made a very valuable effort to bring the parties closer. The UN observer has also played a very important role. We have felt the support of the friendly countries now that we are about to reach an agreement.

The government peace commission regrets that we were unable to conclude this discussion when virtually everything was on the negotiating table. Personal reasons prevented URNG leaders from remaining in this round of negotiations.

Monsignor Quezada Toruno had summoned us to a meeting that was scheduled to conclude on 17 April. We worked an extra day on 18 April. On the morning of 19 April we are still trying to reach an agreement with the conciliator's assistance. There is, however, a very important fact we want the Guatemalan people and international community to know: Our work began with an informative meeting with UN experts appointed by the UN secretary general to discuss efforts to achieve a definitive cease-fire.

This is important because we have said since our last round of negotiations that in-depth discussions of elements needed to achieve a definitive cease-fire are positive. We think that perhaps the URNG has not decided to begin negotiations that will lead to a firm and lasting peace agreement that would include a cease-fire in the short term.

This is our opinion: We do not see in them a full commitment to achieving a cease-fire in the short term. We think that has somewhat halted progress in this area. [end recording]

Manuel Conde explained the reasons why the government delegation refused to meet officially with CSC representatives in the Mexican capital:

[Begin Conde recording] Noone knew the commission would be in Mexico City. Msgr. Quezada Toruno said he did not know they would be there. The other party said the same, although we do not know for sure. We had some information that representatives of civilian groups would be in Mexico. When they arrived Msgr. Quezada Toruno asked if they could meet us. We told the monsignor that this aspect had not yet been defined; that is, a mechanism allowing all members of Guatemalan society to participate in the negotiations.

Msgr. Quezada Toruno met with URNG representatives who handed him a document. I had a casual meeting with them in the hotel lobby. I told them that I or a representative of our commission would be pleased to meet with them. The meeting did not take place until two members of our commission, Engineer (Manuel Ovente) and (Dr. Depais), approached them during lunch and told them the government of the Republic is obliged to talk to all segments of Guatemalan society, but in Guatemala. We are holding talks with Guatemalans outside Guatemala due to special circumstances. These Guatemalans are operating illegally and clandestinely and have taken up arms.

This should be remembered: As long as there is no duly recognized mechanism in place, the government will only hold talks with other segments of Guatemalan society in Guatemala. In fact, the Peace Commission scheduled a meeting with them on 27 April. This meeting was not scheduled earlier because they said they had to consult their rank and file and had other commitments. We understood their situation. [end recording]

### Oil Production Increases to 7,000 Barrels Per Day

*PA2004122193 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 6*

[Text] Hydrocarbons Director General Rene Rolando Mena Klee announced that Guatemala's oil production has reached 7,000 barrels per day [BPD] (the greatest ever). Mena said the general production of hydrocarbons has increased considerably. When the current administration took office, production was 2,700 BPD.

Mena is optimistic that production will continue to increase and that in a few years Guatemala could become self-sufficient.

The official said that currently Guatemala imports 26,000 BPD of fuel, including oil, diesel, and gasoline, which translates to enormous losses in foreign exchange. Mena believes this makes it necessary to intensively explore the Guatemalan subsoil.

The hydrocarbons director general said many international companies are interested in exploring oil fields in our territory. Mena added, however, that due to delays in

the environmental impact studies by certain institutions, it has not been possible to sign the contracts.

This is regrettable, Mena said, because this harms Guatemala's social and economic development.

## Honduras

### * Deforestation Endangers Hydroelectric Output

*93CA0091B San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA (Weekly Supplement) in Spanish 7 Mar 93 p 11*

[Text] In the decade of the 1980's, a huge artificial reservoir was created in the municipality of Santa Cruz de Yojoa, Cortes, at a cost of approximately 1.6 billion lempiras. A gigantic concrete dam was installed between two hills, and the complicated machinery there demonstrates that this is one of the largest hydroelectric plants on the continent.

It was initially called El Cajon [The Box] because of its physical characteristics, since it could hold a total of 2.5 billion cubic meters of water. It was later renamed the Francisco Morazan Hydroelectric Plant. But what was a dream, made vastly more costly by various governments, is today on the verge of becoming a nightmare for thousands of energy consumers, on both the domestic and the industrial levels.

The constant interruptions of electrical energy, or power failures, have forced many families to resort to candles in recent weeks, and industry owners have had to shut down their machines.

This situation is being made more acute by the high rates charged for electricity to swell the fund which the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE) uses to pay off a part of the millions in debt contracted with international bodies, a large part of it for the construction of this hydroelectric plant.

#### Levels Dangerously Low

Since the Francisco Morazan Hydroelectric Plant is the main source of electrical energy for the country, the reduction in its energy production level is limiting the service the ENEE can provide.

This fact is of concern to the enterprise executives, because the predictions are that the water volume in the reservoir will suffer an unprecedented reduction this year due to the arrival of summer and the deforestation of the basin.

Leonardo Deras, the official in charge of the operation of this huge energy-generation center, has said that the useful life of the hydroelectric complex is dependent on two basic aspects—the maintenance of the electromechanical system and the reservoir conditions.

The plant requires a water level of 275 cubic meters above sea level to reach its production limit of 300 megawatts (75 per turbine). For maximum storage capacity, the water level must be 287 meters.

The Canaveral and Lindo River Hydroelectric Plants together produce 110 megawatts, which shows that the Francisco Morazan Dam represents the spinal column of the country in the energy sector. The problem is made more acute by the fact that Lindo River and Canaveral are undergoing maintenance work, and are, therefore, operating at only 50 percent of their normal capacity.

What Rodas [as published] fears is that the water level at El Cajon will drop between now and the month of May to 250 meters above sea level (something that has never before happened). This would lead to a reduction of 30 or 40 megawatts in production, he maintains.

He said that in view of this problem, the ENEE has asked international bodies and national environmental institutions to cooperate in the urgent drafting of a plan for the management of the hydrographic basin of this hydroelectric plant.

"Deforestation has had an effect, as is being demonstrated with the arrival of the summer season. The useful life of the dam will depend on the protection of its natural resources," our interlocutor commented.

The Francisco Morazan Hydroelectric Plant was built between 1980 and 1988. It was initially estimated that its useful life would be 35 or 40 years.

However, Rodas said, if their basins have deteriorated, hydroelectric plants cannot survive and generate energy for domestic use, much less enough for export. Honduras sold energy to neighboring countries until 1990.

The felling and burning of the forests, he said, has had an effect. He cited as an example the hydroelectric plant in El Nispero, Santa Barbara, which is producing only 22.5 megawatts because it can only operate one or two hours a day due to the lack of water.

The level of domestic demand for electrical energy is 360 megawatts, or 430 at the so-called "peak hours" (midday), when consumption rises. The country is supplied by the three hydroelectric plants referred to and the thermal power plants in Puerto Cortes and La Ceiba. The failure of any one of the systems leads to a production drop.

#### Criminal Deforestation

With regard to the levels of deforestation in the basins of the rivers that feed the giant dam, Hector Mejia, the head of the Hydrographic Basins Protection Unit at the Francisco Morazan Hydroelectric Plant, has demanded "immediate" implementation of a protection plan.

The reservoir has a hydrographic basin of approximately 40,000 hectares, of which 8,000, called the immediate water supply area, are protected by that ENEE unit.

The protected forest zones are those that drain into the Humuya, Sulaco, and Yura Rivers, which empty into the reservoir. The rest of the area is regarded as the "buffer zone."

Mejia explained that 40 percent of the basins of these rivers have suffered severe damage because of the felling of trees, the burning of forests, and migratory crop cultivation.

He said that the sector most seriously affected includes Meambar, Cerro Azul, Montana de Santa Barbara, Montana de Comayagua, and El Pijol, which were at one time protected by a forestry unit of the Honduran Corporation for Forest Development (COHDEFOR).

In other places, three sawmills have been closed, the irrational felling of trees has been blocked, and agroforestry groups have been established to exploit the forests rationally and to protect them.

This official, who attributes the deforestation to the increase in the population of the hydrographic basin, said that the demographic increase between 1988 and 1983 [as published] was about 70 percent.

He said that approximately 700 families lived throughout the basin in 1988, but the number has now reached almost 1,200.

"These people are exploiting the forest in one way or another, because it must be admitted that in order to complete this hydroelectric project, a vast expanse of land suited to farming was flooded," Mejia said.

He noted that the immediate supply zones are under constant surveillance, as are the buffer zones, thanks to the assistance provided by the agroforestry groups. But this is not enough. The total and effective protection of the basin requires an integral plan, he emphasized.

This work is done by ENEE personnel using four launches, with the help of the Special Forces Battalion, a military unit responsible for the safety of the hydroelectric complex.

**A Halt to Investment**

One of the sectors that has questioned the breakdowns in energy service most frequently has been industry and trade, in which there have been open complaints about the operational difficulties caused by power failures.

Guillermo Kattan, the president of the Cortes Chamber of Commerce and Industries (CCIC), was consulted about this matter. He warned that because of this situation, investments in the country might come to a halt.

"We are concerned.... We have been insisting for some months now that the high rates charged for electrical energy and the shortcomings in the service provided may threaten the investments in the country," he said.

We were recently assured that we would have no problems with electrical energy service in the coming decade, but the power failures indicate that the situation is otherwise, he noted.

He expressed the view that the only possible choice for Honduras is to acquire thermal power plants, which would have the result of increasing the import of fuels and would create a larger deficit in the balance of payments. And he added that the product will be more expensive.

He expressed confidence that the ENEE officials will explain the real situation in energy production to the various sectors of the country, so that we will know where we are.

This business leader said that if no short-term solutions are found, "We will have to halt our investments, because it makes no sense to continue making them if we have no energy supply."

Continuing to invest when there is rationing and high rates creates an adverse situation. We hope that the ENEE will explain the reality to us, and on that basis, we can develop better criteria, Kattan went on to comment.

Another sector that has expressed its concern about this situation is the export sector. Recently, the National Association of Honduran Exporters (ANEXONH) revealed through its president, Mario Guillermo Lopez, that the sudden interruptions in electrical energy service are slowing the production and shipment of goods and are also damaging the electrical equipment.

Others predict that we will continue to suffer from meteorological conditions, as has been the case with the grain harvests.

Marcial Santos, the regional manager of the ENEE, said that power failures are due to the advent of summer and the maintenance work being done at the Canaveral and Lindo River Plants.

He admitted, however, that there are instances in which power failures are caused by failure of fuses and transformers or deterioration of the distribution networks.

Over the long term, the ENEE is planning the construction of three hydroelectric plants. One is the Aguas de la Reina plant, which will make use of the water from the Francisco Morazan reservoir. Another is known as El Remolino, and will be located in the northwestern zone, and the third will be at the Sico Dam in the department of Olancho.

But that is another story.

## Nicaragua

### Telephone Taps Discovered at Foreign Ministry

*PA2004032293 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] Telephone taps discovered at the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry resulted in a strong protest from Minister Ernesto Leal to Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta, who has been unable to conduct an efficient investigation to settle the case. Sources close to the Foreign Ministry said that there is a suspicion the ministry's telephones have been tapped for years. Many secret border issues were revealed in the past. It seems the source of those leaks has been discovered.

The Government Ministry has yet to ascertain how the taps were installed. Many attribute the action to the State Security Agency headed by Lenin Cerna and operated under General Humberto Ortega's authority.

Political circles said the disclosure of a conversation between a Foreign Ministry official and an exiled Cuban leader is a way of scoring points with Cuban state security officials—precisely the ones who provided advise to the State Security Agency in Nicaragua.

Cubans have become stricter in granting departure permits to their citizens and officials to Nicaragua because many of them have deserted and others have used this country as a stopover on their trip to the United States.

The Government Ministry has practically declared itself incapable of conducting an investigation because it lacks the necessary technical means. Other ministries have asked the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services [Telcor] to check their telephone systems because they suspect their telephones have also been tapped. Telcor technicians have been seen at the president's house conducting a technical investigation.

### Nicaraguan Resistance Requests Participation in Dialogue

*PA2004005393 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p1*

[Report by Alvaro Cruz Rojas]

[Text] Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, on 17 April sent a letter to President Violeta de Chamorro requesting to be included in a future national dialogue with "its own identity" and a unified position that would represent the various groups in that movement.

Enrique Quinonez or Commander "Josue," spokesman of the National Commission for RN Unification [Comision Nacional Prounificacion de la Resistencia Nicaraguense] stressed the need to have this important political group represented in the national dialogue, adding that "no other political force can represent us."

In its letter to President Chamorro, the RN reported that "for the sake of reconciliation and in recognition that the RN is a point of balance in the economic, social, and political fields, we request the participation of our organization in the national dialogue with its own identity."

The Commission for RN Unification was created at a recent assembly in Jinotega, at which new Board of Directors members were elected, with the intention of representing the various sectors of the former contras, including the Nicaraguan Resistance Party, PRN, the Nicaraguan Resistance Civic Association, and those disabled by the war.

Local political circles have been announcing the imminent legalization of the PRN after a request for legal status was initially denied by the National Council of Political Parties, which contended that the RN leaders were not registered in the electoral records.

### UNO To Propose Cabinet Change During Meeting With Chamorro

*PA2004031993 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] The National Opposition Unity (UNO) parties have included a proposal demanding a cabinet change on the agenda of topics to be discussed during a 3 May meeting with Nicaraguan President Violeta Chamorro. Our source reported to this newscast that another proposal is for duties to be designated for Vice President Virgilio Godoy Rey. In addition, there is a proposal for the decentralization of government duties as upheld by President Chamorro when she rose to power in 1990. This concentration of power has left the vice president isolated, giving all the power to Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo.

The Nicaraguan Government, however, had announced that it would not accept any imposition by the political parties or any other organization. We await the results of the important meeting between the Nicaraguan president and the 10 UNO political parties on 3 May.

### FSLN Proposes Measures To Demand Adjustment of Government Economic Plan

*PA2104004193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 20 Apr 93 pp 1, 5*

[Report by Elisa Maturana C.]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] on 19 April proposed a package of "palliative" measures to demand that the government "firmly adjust" its economic plan. The FSLN says the "drastic" enforcement of stabilization and structural adjustment policies have led the country to an unbearable state of "prostration."

In a public statement read by FSLN Secretary General Daniel Ortega, the FSLN deems urgent an economic reactivation that would assign "a central role" to local

producers. The statement calls the party's active members to put themselves "at the head of the people" to demand this "economic change of course" that would take the country out of the crisis.

The FSLN thinks the reactivation must be based on a "definitive" solution to the property ownership conflict, a proper channeling of resources, and by taking advantage of "production potential" that offers the possibility of immediate recovery.

The document, entitled "The FSLN's Stand on the National Economic Crisis," was the product of a Sandinist Assembly meeting in El Crucero over the 17 April weekend. It contains 18 items that, according to Ortega, intend to make the government's economic program workable.

"This is not an alternate program—we are working on one, but it is not ready yet—but a list of measures to make the government program work. As it stands now, it will not work," Ortega said. He was accompanied by National Directorate members Jaime Wheelock and Victor Tirado.

The FSLN demands begin with a call to pay attention to and support "firmly" agricultural, livestock, and industrial production, "the hub of reactivation," by immediately stimulating producers starting with the present season.

The document then demands the immediate creation of a large number of jobs. According to the FSLN, this can only be attained by "stimulating and expanding" production activities and by implementing a public investment plan, which at present is "slowed" [frenado] by red tape.

The FSLN suggests stimulating the production of exportable goods in an effort to determine their potential. Nicaragua would thus be able to acquire foreign currency for a "progressive independence and economic self-sufficiency" and be less dependent on international aid.

At the end of the news conference, Wheelock told BARRICADA: "The government has emphasized the importance of stabilization without exports. We propose stabilization with the production of exportable goods. The money would be directed at local producers instead of given away to importers of superfluous products."

The proposal, which has not yet been presented to the government, demands that the government legalize the ownership of properties, grant loans, and give preferential financial treatment to demobilized Sandinist People's Army and Nicaraguan Resistance members to whom the government has assigned lands.

In the specific case of the country's western region, which is devastated by a severe drought, the FSLN proposes a "contingency agricultural and livestock program" to overcome the severe recession in that area.

"We have a highly explosive situation in the west. The stimulation of cotton production is essential to creating jobs. The government could finance the planting of approximately 25,000 manzanas, which would create some 1,000 jobs," Ortega said.

The FSLN proposes to review the lending, monetary, and fiscal policies that the organization feels are "suffocating" local production. Such factors include illiquidity, reduction in the number of short-term loans for the productive sector, tariff rates, lack of stimulus for state banks, and excessive interest rates.

For that purpose the FSLN demands an immediate reduction of the General Value Tax to a maximum of 7 percent, an amendment of the tax collection system, elimination the payment ahead of schedule of income tax, elimination of the estimated revenue, and a revision of the 2 percent tax levied by municipalities.

The document also regards as "essential" the protection of state banks "as instruments" to orient productive development.

Besides these demands, which Ortega described as "essential elements for a national dialogue" and which were approved by the Sandinist Assembly as part of a Struggle Plan for its forces, there are also demands for security for producers through the promulgation of a Final Point Agreement to settle the property issue, for the compensation of legitimate claimants, and for the distribution of Office of Territorial Organization certificates in no more than 60 days for those benefited by Laws 85 and 86.

The FSLN also called for the drafting of a labor code that would guarantee "dignified" labor conditions and spur productivity.

In the last five points the Sandinists call for a struggle against the "mercantilization" of health and education services, reject the privatization of public services such as those offered by the National Institute of Energy, the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute, and the Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services, and demand the promotion of "frontal" actions to preserve and improve natural resources.

Finally, the FSLN calls for a struggle against corruption and for that purpose it proposes the "professionalization" of the Comptroller General's Office. It also voices its willingness to promote in the National Assembly the discussion of the country's social and economic problems on which the FSLN has focused attention in the past few months as well as a discussion of the respective bills.

The document concludes with a call to all groups in the country to "work together" to find a solution to the economic crisis, because "it should be a priority of all Nicaraguans" and because the FSLN thinks it is necessary to "spark a mobilization of economic elements" to "reach a consensus of wills" in search of a revival.

## Cardinal Obando y Bravo Voices Distrust for Politicians

*PA2004023893 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 5*

[Report by Roberto Larios]

[Text] During his traditional Sunday Mass homily at Santo Domingo Church in Las Sierritas, Managua on 18 April, His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo manifested his intense distrust in politicians participating in the upcoming national dialogue.

The cardinal exhorted politicians "to pray" so they can "become interested in the community" and approach the national dialogue "with the political will to defend the people and to advocate a general well-being—not only the well-being of a group, a party, or a deputy."

After Sunday mass, BARRICADA asked Cardinal Obando y Bravo if he trusted the politicians who are to attend the dialogue. He replied: "It seems I am a bit like Saint Thomas who said: I believe when I see. Politicians have always looked after their own interests and that is why peasants do not believe in them. The peasants say: It makes no difference if a liberal or a conservative assumes power because I always end up eating bananas with salt."

Obando y Bravo said that historically politicians have always disappointed the people. He recalled that during the past 10 years, politicians had promised Nicaraguans "that milk and honey would flow" and instead the forests have perished and the rivers and lagoons have dried up.

The cardinal said he believed it would be good for merchants, businessmen, workers, investors, and others, which he called "active sectors" in the country, to participate in the national dialogue. He opposed the position that calls for the dialogue to become a meeting attended exclusively by politicians.

Obando y Bravo disagreed with the opinion of Virgilio Godoy, one of the National Opposition Union delegates to the dialogue. Godoy had stated that if "many people" attended the meeting it would turn into a "tower of Babel" and there would be no dialogue.

In his homily, the cardinal talked about peace, which according to Christian precepts, should also include closeness to God, our fellowmen, and nature.

"Christ's peace means well-being and work for all. Just because I have a house and a job does not mean that I am going to forget my fellowmen who do not have one," His Eminence stated.

Obando y Bravo also prayed for peace for the peasants. He prayed that nobody would kill them and their families while they worked the land.

## New Drug Cartel Reportedly Emerges in Managua

*PA2004024893 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 19 Apr 93 pp 1,12*

[Article by Noel Irias]

[Text] After the capture of Norwin Meneses—defined by the National Police as the "King of Cocaine"—in November 1991, a new drug cartel has emerged and has gained strength in Nicaragua. This new cartel owns, among other things, transport facilities, landing fields, and a solid network of collaborators, BARRICADA has confirmed.

The first indications that this new network existed arose when Edwin Rivera—a former Sandinist People's Army (EPS) captain—was arrested a few days ago when he attempted to smuggle 40 kg of cocaine hidden in two suitcases, according to BARRICADA investigations.

"The smuggling of that 40 kg of cocaine is only the tip of the iceberg [preceding word in English] of a much larger smuggling operation," an expert who preferred to remain anonymous commented. The modus operandi seems to confirm this thesis.

The drug was confiscated at a rural landing field, allegedly located in Somotillo, in the western part of the country. The plane arrived from Colombia and could carry between 150 and 350 kg of cocaine. Nevertheless, only 40 kg of cocaine was confiscated. Where is the rest? This is an unanswered question.

Also, there is no sign of the other two people involved with Rivera; among them, Claudia Veronica Chow, who reportedly gave Rivera the two suitcases. The woman has disappeared into thin air.

On 29 March, Chow attended her scheduled English class at the Central American University, however, she did not remain until the end of the class. An unidentified person came looking for her, she went out in the hall to speak with the visitor, and then she vanished. She was in such a hurry that she even left her books behind. This is the last time she was seen.

According to this newspaper's investigation, the new cartel has a landing field, however, it is not located in Somotillo. This was also confirmed by the investigation.

In addition, it is known that the new cartel owns trailers and trucks to transport drugs to Honduras. The fact that for the past several months the Honduran police have been seizing a greater number of trucks transporting drugs from Nicaragua, supports this fact.

Regarding logistics, the cartel has contacts in diverse regions of the country. There is evidence that these contacts exist in Jinotega, Managua, El Sauce, and Juigalpa. At this last site, it is assumed that an individual called William is the contact, although his true identity is unknown.

In Managua, the authorities are investigating contacts in the Central America neighborhood, in Sandino City, at Las Brisas—a bar on the eastern highway—and the surroundings of Villa Panama.

There is a persistent rumor that individuals who are involved include a person who has been participating in drug trafficking since the 1970's; a person who belonged to the EPS and smuggled drugs from Region 2 to Region 5 in 1987 and 1988; as well as a small group of former EPS officials with ranks from first lieutenant to major, before being dismissed a few months ago.

From the statements made by Rivera and two officers who were captured, Claudia Veronica Chow, Rodrigo Quintero—a Colombian—and Juan Duy Herrera Thomas have been implicated. Nevertheless, none of them have been captured. Strangely, there is scarce reference to these people in the legal files.

This newspaper was able to determine that Chow is approximately 26, 1.70 meters tall, thin, and has an oval face and is considered an attractive and pleasant woman. She uses glasses occasionally.

According to our sources, she has worked in the past at the former video store Hogar Feliz, as a receptionist at the Managua Municipality's delegation in District 2 in ALPAC [expansion unknown], and in a restaurant in the capital.

Her last known residence is in the Monsignor Lezcano neighborhood, near Bodega Wheelock. She previously lived in Altagarcia, near Racachaca, and in two different houses in Pancasan.

According to Rivera's first statements, which he later denied, Rodrigo Quintero, a Colombian, is the cartel's representative in Managua. Quintero held several meetings with Rivera in the Rotonda sector of Bello Horizonte neighborhood.

Quintero lived at Las Brisas, which is two blocks from the Lenin Fonseca Hospital, in house 26. His whereabouts are unknown.

BARRICADA has also found out that Juan Duy Herrera Thomas, alleged "recruiter" of Rivera, is a U.S. citizen of Nicaraguan origin whose usual residence is Miami.

According to police investigations, Herrera also goes by the name of Juan Dewey Thomas. Herrera is originally from Jinotega where he has the reputation of living on the "edge of illegality." He participated in weapons and explosives trafficking for the contras in the past decade and lived at kilometer 14.5 on the road to Masaya.

Herrera also disappeared into thin air after Rivera was captured.

## * Regulations for Property Compensation Office

*93CA0093A Managua BARRICADA in Spanish*
*13 Mar 93 pp 6, 7*

[Text of Ministerial Accord No. 07-93 that regulates the Office of Quantification and Compensation]

[Text] **Preliminary Provisions**

**Article 1. ESTABLISHMENT.** The Office of Quantification and Compensation, established by Decree No. 51-92, hereinafter referred to by its acronym OCI, comes under the jurisdiction of the Finance Ministry. It shall be headquartered in the city of Managua and may establish branch headquarters or offices in any part of the country. It shall function in accordance with the decree that established it, as well as these regulations and such administrative provisions as may be issued by the Finance Ministry.

**Article 2. OBJECTIVE.** The primary and immediate objective of the OCI shall be to assess and quantify the property claimed by private individuals before the National Confiscation Review Commission, pursuant to Decrees 11-90 and their amendments. In each case it shall determine the value of the property in question and quantify the outstanding obligations owed by the claimant to the government or its institutions and to the National Financial System, taking into consideration advance payments or prior compensations.

**Article 3. DECISIONS.** Its decisions, resolutions, and findings shall be administrative in nature. Once they have been issued in the established form and terms, they shall constitute valid documents that the interested party may submit to the General Treasury of the Republic for compensation under the payment system established in Decree 56-92, published in Gazette No. 198 of 16 October 1992.

**Article 4. ORGANIZATION.** The OCI shall consist of a Board of Directors, an Office of the Director General, a Technical Council, and two Specialized Offices: the Office of Quantification and the Office of Compensation and Notification, plus a Documentation Service.

**Article 5. SECTIONS.** The Office of the Director General shall establish such departments and sections as it deems appropriate for the proper functioning of the OCI.

**Board of Directors**

**Article 6. MEMBERSHIP.** The Board of Directors shall have three qualified members, appointed directly by the Finance Ministry to hold specific offices.

**Article 7. POWERS.** The Board of Directors shall have the following powers: a) to oversee and monitor the enforcement of the legal and regulational provisions, rules, and regulations involved in quantification and compensation; b) to issue regulations to correct and implement the functioning of the office in order to achieve its objectives; and c) to receive biweekly or

monthly reports from the director general regarding the execution of the work plans.

**Article 8. MEETINGS.** The Board of Directors shall meet at least once a month, with the attendance of all members. It shall hold regular meetings at a previously agreed-upon date and place, and shall hold special meetings when a member or the director general so requests with 24 hours' notice.

**Article 9. BOOK OF MINUTES.** The Board of Directors shall maintain a book of minutes in which it records its decisions and orders. Decisions shall be approved by majority vote.

**Office of the Director General**

**Article 10. DIRECTOR GENERAL.** The OCI shall be headed by a director general appointed and sworn in by the finance minister.

**Article 11. PREREQUISITES.** To be appointed director general, a candidate must be: a) Nicaraguan; b) more than 25 years of age; c) an attorney, business manager, economist, or other professional with an academic degree deemed appropriate by the finance minister for this office.

**Article 12. CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** The director general may not hold other public office, except a teaching position.

**Article 13. OATH OF OFFICE.** The director general shall install the members of the Board of Directors once they have taken the oath of office.

**Article 14. POWERS.** The Office of the Director General shall issue decisions regarding assessment and quantification, as set forth in Presidential Decrees 11-90, 23-91, 51-92, and 56-92, with the participation and support of the Technical Council; it shall also process the appeal and review applications that are submitted in accordance with Article 9 of Decree 51-92 and shall conduct arbitration proceedings pursuant to Article 11 of said Decree.

**Article 15. ADMINISTRATIVE BODY.** The Office of the Director General is the administrative body responsible for analyzing and quantifying in a practical and efficient manner the cases submitted to the OCI by natural or moral persons who have received a favorable decision from the National Confiscation Review Commission (CNRC), and the cases referred to in Article 33 of these regulations.

**Article 16. RECORD OF DECISIONS.** The Office of the Director General shall maintain a book of minutes in which it records its decisions consecutively. Once such decisions have been signed, the Office of Compensation shall serve legal notice on the interested party.

**Article 17. SUPPORT FOR CNRC.** The Office of the Director General of the OCI shall support the CNRC in the cases in which the commission has deemed it feasible to return the claimed property. **For this purpose, the OCI shall issue the document referred to in Article 13 of Decree 51-92.**

**Article 18. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION.** The Office of the Director General shall request from other government institutions the necessary information to enable it to examine, prove, and resolve the cases that come before it.

**Technical Council**

**Article 19. CONSULTATIVE BODY.** The Technical Council is the consultative and support body for the OCI's Office of the Director General. It shall examine quantification applications and submit its opinion to the director general so that the corresponding decision can be issued.

**Article 20. MEETINGS.** The Technical Council shall consist of: a) a director of quantification; b) a director of compensation; and c) the head of the OCI Legal Service. The Technical Committee [as published] shall be convened for meetings whenever the Office of the Director General deems it appropriate.

**Article 21. OPINIONS.** The opinions of the Technical Council shall be approved by majority vote.

**Office of Quantification**

**Article 22. ASSESSMENT STUDIES.** The Office of Quantification shall conduct studies to assess the value of the goods and property claimed in each case, and shall quantify the obligations the claimant owes to the government, as well as all advance payments and prior compensation received by the claimant. The Office of Quantification shall submit its analysis, establishing the claimant's net balance.

**Assessment Service**

**Article 23. CRITERIA.** When appraising claimed property, the Assessment Service shall apply in all cases the criteria set forth in Decrees 11-90 and 23-91, using as a basis for real property the tax assessment of 30 September 1992. It shall also appraise all personal property included in the application in accordance with the criteria, tables and procedures prepared for that purpose by the General Treasury of the Republic.

**Article 24. SUBMISSION.** When the claimant's net balance has been determined, the Office of Quantification shall submit all proceedings to the Office of the Director General, presenting a brief summary of all property assessed, debts to the government and its institutions, and the criteria and bases used to determine the net balance.

**Legal Analysis Service**

**Article 25. LEGAL OPINION.** The Legal Analysis Service shall issue opinions on the legal documents supporting applicants' declarations. It shall verify the declarations and the property registration data in the Computerized Data System.

**Office of Compensation**

**Article 26. POWERS.** The Office of Compensation shall make public the quantification decisions issued by the Office of the Director General and shall serve notice on the interested parties. It shall serve as a secretariat for purposes of calculating terms and logging appeals filed by claimants.

**Article 27. NOTIFICATION.** The Office of Compensation shall, upon serving notice of the decision issued by the Office of the Director General, issue the corresponding certification for the interested party to submit to the General Treasury of the Republic in order to receive the Compensation Voucher.

**Documentation Service**

**Article 28. COMPLETED APPLICATIONS.** The Documentation Service shall accept applications consisting of the forms distributed by the OCI, including a duly signed affidavit. It shall refuse incomplete or incorrect applications, as well as those that do not fulfill the requirements and instructions issued by the Office of the Director General.

**Article 29. CLASSIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS.** The Documentation Service shall receive and classify the applications as to whether the applicant is a natural or moral person, and shall issue the corresponding receipt to the interested party, duly dated and numbered.

**General Considerations**

**Article 30. ADHERENCE TO THE LAW.** Every office and department of the OCI shall strictly adhere to the law and shall not discriminate against individuals for reasons of ideology, race, or creed.

**Article 31. FREE SERVICES.** All services provided by the OCI shall be free of charge, with the exception of the expenses entailed in arbitration proceedings, where applicable.

**Article 32. OVERHEAD.** The overhead, professional fees, travel expenses, salaries, or benefits paid to OCI personnel shall be covered by the Finance Ministry.

**Article 33. APPEARANCES.** Persons authorized to appear before the OCI are: a) natural or moral persons who have received favorable decisions from the CNRC, or their representatives; and/or b) natural or moral persons, or their legal representatives, who in the opinion of the Office of the Attorney General should present their case to the Office of Quantification and Compensation.

**Article 34. POWER OF ATTORNEY.** All appearances or applications may be made personally or through persons holding proper powers of attorney. The OCI shall accept only those applications that contain all the required basic documentation, on the forms made available to the public for that purpose. Basic document is understood to mean: a) Certification of CNRC Decisions; b) Opinions of Attorney General's Office; and c) Affidavit.

**Article 35. ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.** The documents submitted to the OCI shall be originals, accompanied by photocopies, which shall be compared to the originals and itemized. The date of submission of such documents shall be recorded.

**Article 36. PROCEDURES.** Upon verification of the legal procedures, the OCI shall, through the Office of the Director General, issue the respective Compensation Quantification Decision. Notice thereof shall be served on the interested party through the Office of Compensation.

**Appeal, Review, and Arbitration**

**Article 37. ARBITRATION PRECLUDED.** Making use of the administrative procedures of appeal and review precludes any arbitration proceeding.

**Article 38. APPEAL.** If the applicant disagrees with the Compensation Quantification Decision, he may appeal to the Office of the Director General within 10 days of notification. Such appeal shall be filed with the Office of Compensation for processing.

**Article 39. APPEAL PROCEDURE.** Once a timely appeal has been filed with the Office of Compensation, in consideration of the reasons set forth by the claimant, the Office of the Director General may: a) uphold its decision; b) act on the applicant's request; or c) set aside a one-week period to take evidence to further substantiate an opinion or decision.

**Article 40. EVIDENCE.** The Office of the Director General may: request documentation, order inspections, and make use of any legally accepted means of proof for that purpose.

**Article 41. REDECISION.** After the period for taking evidence has expired, the Office of the Director General shall issue a decision within one week. If the applicant is still dissatisfied with the decision, he may file a request for review by the finance minister.

**Article 42. REVIEW.** The request for review may be filed with the official who verifies the notification or with the Office of Compensation within the time period set forth in Article 38 of these Regulations.

**Article 43. ACCEPTANCE.** Upon filing of a timely and proper request for review, the office shall accept same and submit the case to the finance minister with the corresponding acknowledgement of receipt.

**Article 44. MINISTER'S DECISION.** Upon receipt of the case and the explanation of the grounds for requesting a review, the minister shall have 30 days to issue a decision revoking, amending, or upholding the decision of the director general. The Office of the Director General shall proceed in accordance with the minister's decision.

**Article 45. REPORT TO TREASURY.** Once a final decision has been rendered and the avenues of appeal have been exhausted, the General Treasury of the Republic shall be informed so that it may proceed, pursuant to the provisions of Decree 56-92. The interested party, upon receipt of the Compensation Vouchers, shall sign the corresponding release.

**Arbitration**

**Article 46. ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.** Any applicant **who disagrees** with the decision issued by the Office of the Director General may pursue within 30 days the alternative and exclusive avenue of arbitration proceedings, as set forth in Article 11 of Presidential Decree 51-92.

**Article 47. ARBITER-REFEREES.** The arbitration referred to herein is **pursuant to Decree 51-92** on arbiter-referees, and shall be subject to the procedures hereinafter specified.

**Article 48. OTHER AVENUES PRECLUDED.** Use of the arbitration procedure and arbiter-referees constitutes an implicit waiver of the other avenues of appeal set forth in Presidential Decree 51-92.

**Article 49. APPOINTMENT OF ARBITER.** A) By common agreement between the claimant and the OCI, one or two arbiters may be appointed. If two are appointed, the parties shall designate a third arbiter to serve as a mediator. If within 30 days of the request for arbitration the claimant and the OCI have not agreed on the person or persons to be appointed, each shall appoint an arbiter. If within an additional 10 days the parties have not appointed a third arbiter, the appointed arbiters may designate such person. If within a further 10-day period the arbiters have not made such appointment, the third arbiter shall be selected by the parties from a list of individuals that the appointed arbiters shall request for that purpose from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, or the Inter-American Commission on Commercial Arbitration.

B) If within 60 days of the claimant's notification of the decision to resort to arbitration under Article 11 of Presidential Decree 51-92, the OCI has not appointed the corresponding arbiter, the claimant may request that the attorney general send an official letter to the OCI's Office of the Director General to require the appointment of an arbiter within 10 days. If the 10-day period has elapsed without the OCI appointing the corresponding arbiter, the attorney general shall appoint such arbiter on his or her own initiative, utilizing for that purpose a list of arbiters provided by the IDB, the World Bank, or the Inter-American Commission on Commercial Arbitration. The arbiter thus chosen by the attorney general shall enjoy the same powers as those vested in arbiters in these regulations and in Paragraph A of this Article 49.

C) If within 60 days of the claimant's notification of the decision to resort to arbitration under Article 11 of Presidential Decree 51-92, the claimant has not appointed his arbiter, the arbitration proceeding shall be considered abandoned.

D) If within 90 days of the claimant's notification of the decision to resort to arbitration under Article 11 of Presidential Decree 51-92, the third arbiter has not been appointed, the attorney general, at the request of either of the parties, shall request that the IDB, the World Bank, or the International Commercial Arbitration Commission [as published] furnish an appropriate list with the names of five persons from the list of arbiters in that institution for the third arbiter. Each of the parties shall eliminate two names from the list and inform the attorney general of the results within 10 days of receiving such list. If the parties eliminate all but one name, that person shall automatically be appointed as third arbiter. If the parties do not eliminate two or three persons, one of them, selected at random in the presence of the claimant or his legal representative, shall automatically be appointed to the post. If one of the parties does not return the list within 10 days, a person selected at random from those not eliminated from the returned list shall automatically be appointed to the post.

E) Upon appointment of all arbiters, the court of arbitration shall be constituted.

**Article 50. DISAGREEMENT.** The arbitration proceeding shall serve in particular to resolve disagreements regarding the amount of compensation.

**Article 51. SUBJECT OF ARBITRATION.** Any quantifications made by the OCI, both of the claimant's debt to the government and of the assessment of property, may be the subject of arbitration.

**Article 52. PUBLIC DOCUMENT.** The appointment of the arbiter-referee shall be recorded in a public document, which shall contain: a) the full name, legal personal data, and specifications of the capacity in which both the claimant and the OCI representative are acting; b) the full name, occupation, and nationality of the arbiter-referee appointed; c) the matter subject to arbitration; d) the powers vested in the arbiter or arbiters, the time and place where he or they will perform his or their duties; and e) a waiver of regular jurisdiction and appeal procedures, and an agreement to accept the provisions of these regulations.

**Article 53. ARBITRATION PROCEDURE.** The procedure shall be that adopted by the arbiters, and shall include: petition, summons, response, evidence, and arbitration ruling. All means of proof shall be admissible, at the discretion of the arbiters.

**Article 54. AWARD.** The award shall be jurisdictional in nature, and shall be binding on the parties as *res judicata.*

**Article 55. APPEAL.** There shall be no avenue of appeal against the arbitration ruling in any regular or special jurisdiction.

**Article 56. CLERK.** As soon as they begin performing their duties, the arbiters shall appoint a recording clerk.

**Article 57. OATHS.** After the arbiters have indicated their agreement at the foot of the document, they shall appear before any civil judge in the District of Managua to take the oath, and the court of arbitration shall be declared constituted. Upon acceptance of the post, the arbiters shall be obligated to fulfill the duties thereof, except as otherwise provided in the law.

**Article 58. POWERS OF ARBITERS.** The powers of the arbiters, the parameters to be used in the appraisal of property, and the interest rates to be applied shall be in accordance with international law.

**Article 59. EXPENSES.** Any expenses that are common to both parties shall be paid by them in equal portions and monitored by the court. The fees of the single arbiter or of the third arbiter as mediator, as the case may be, and the common expenses shall be paid by both parties at the rate of 50 percent each, and shall be set with the concurrence of the court of arbitration. The costs incurred by each party in preparing its case and the fees of the arbiter appointed by it shall be paid by the interested party.

**Article 60. DEBTS TO THE GOVERNMENT OR ITS INSTITUTIONS.** The applicant or claimant may request that obligations to the government or its institutions be dealt with outside the scope of arbitration, and may submit to arbitration only the matter of the appraisal of property.

**Article 61. LANGUAGE.** Spanish shall be the official language.

**Article 62. NOTICES.** Notices shall be served on the parties in accordance with the rules set forth in the Nicaraguan Code of Civil Procedure, to the extent possible.

**Article 63. IMPLIED WAIVERS.** The parties' acceptance of arbitration as a means of resolving their differences amounts to an implied waiver of the jurisdiction provided by the government through the common courts and the administrative procedures of appeal and review.

**Article 64. RECUSATION.** The grounds for recusation shall be those set forth in Title XII, Book I of the Code of Civil Procedure, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 982 Pr.

**Article 65. FILING OF PETITION.** Upon constituting the court, the arbiters shall order the claimant to file the corresponding petition within 20 days. Such petition shall then be forwarded to the government, which shall be given 20 days to respond.

**Article 66. ABANDONMENT OF ACTION.** If the claimant does not file his petition within 20 days, it shall be considered that he has abandoned the action, and the decision of the OCI shall be considered final.

**Article 67. SUMMONS.** Upon filing of the petition, the government shall be issued a summons to respond to the petition within 20 days, acknowledging or contesting the facts alleged by the petitioner. Documentary evidence supporting the allegations shall be submitted. If the government does not respond to the petition within such period, its response shall be considered negative for all legal purposes, without prejudice to its right to intervene at any stage of the proceedings.

**Article 68. EVIDENCE.** Upon receipt of the response to the petition, a 20-day period shall be allowed for the admission of evidence, should one of the parties so request or should the court deem it appropriate. The arbitration award shall be issued within 90 days of the expiration of the evidence period.

**Article 69. TERMS AND DEADLINES.** The terms and deadlines shall be assumed to be given in calendar days, except as otherwise provided by law.

**Article 70. CALENDAR.** The court of arbitration shall establish the calendar and schedule for performing its functions.

**Article 71. DOMICILE.** The city of Managua shall be the court's domicile, and it shall operate at the site designated by the arbiters for that purpose.

**Article 72. SUPPLEMENTARY RULES.** The arbiters, in their capacity as referees or friendly mediators, may follow the standards set forth in the Code of Civil Procedure or adopt the standards they deem appropriate as supplementary rules to those set forth herein.

**Article 73. DEADLINES.** The deadlines shall be common to both parties and shall be automatic.

**Article 74. ISSUANCE OF ARBITRATION RULINGS.** The arbiter-referees shall issue their ruling or award in accordance with applicable legal precepts and the criteria of prudence and equity. Such criteria shall be set forth in the public document referred to in Article 52.

**Article 75. FINAL JUDGMENT.** The final judgment in the case shall contain the following: a) the names of the litigants; b) a brief summary of the allegations in the petition; c) a summary of the defense presented by the respondent; d) the reasons of prudence and equity on which the judgment is based; e) the decision on the disputed matter; f) the date, time, and place at which the arbitration award or judgment is being issued; and g) the signature of the arbiter or arbiters and of the recording clerk.

**Article 76. EXECUTION OF AWARD.** The award shall be executed in accordance with general rules, specifically the provisions of Decree 56-92 on the Compensation System, of 15 October 1992.

**Article 77. COMPENSATION.** The interested party shall submit the certification of the arbitration award to the General Treasury of the Republic to be compensated in accordance with the payment system set forth in Decree 56-92.

This Ministerial Accord shall take effect upon publication in any mass media, without prejudice to its subsequent publication in LA GACETA, the Official Gazette.

Executed in the city of Managua, Republic of Nicaragua, this 10th day of March, 1993.

Emilio Pereira Alegria, Finance Minister

## Panama

### Legislator Says PRD Does Not Support General Amnesty

*PA2004151093 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Mario Rognoni has said that his party has never said it wants a general amnesty. He explained that the information provided by the PRD has been misconstrued by the media.

Rognoni, who appears to be the PRD spokesman, stated that cases of murder and embezzlement should go to trial to determine whether those charged are responsible or innocent. This is what the PRD wants, he continued. But the legislator asserted it has been erroneously reported that the PRD wants a general amnesty or an absolute pardon.

### Arnulfist Party To Hold Boquete Convention 24 Apr

*PA2004201793 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p 13*

["Communique to the country" issued by the Arnulfist Party in Panama City on 7 April]

[Text] The National Directorate of the Arnulfist Party, with the consent of the Consultative Board, making use of the powers granted to it by Article 12 of the party statutes, and in compliance with the Electoral Code, has convoked an extraordinary national convention to be held 24 April 1993 in the Arco Iris Room at the flower festival fairgrounds in Boquete.

The extraordinary national convention has been called to consider rescinding Articles 64 and 65 of the party statutes; amending Articles 11, 12, and others; and electing the members of the National Directorate and dignitaries who were elected during the October 1992 party convention in Penonome who must be replaced due to death or resignation.

Articles 64 and 65 are transitory. The first notes that the next regular convention will be held within the year prior to the 1994 elections, on a date established by the National Directorate. Article 65 stipulates that all current positions on the national, provincial, district, and corregimiento executive boards, as well as those of the consultative board, will have a term of office equal to the period remaining before the convocation of the next regular convention.

According to a statement by Eduardo Valdes E., president magistrate of the Electoral Tribunal, in note No. 082N-MP/93 dated 17 February 1993 responding to a query by honorable Arnulfist legislator Francisco Artola, "the date of the next regular convention must be held between 8 May 1993 and 8 February 1994." Based on this and other pronouncements by the Electoral Tribunal and further interpretation of the statutes, the Arnulfist Party National Directorate considers the existing transitory Articles 64 and 65 a big obstacle at this time to the Arnulfist Party's participation in the 1994 elections, for which campaigning will begin in 1993. It proposes, therefore, that such articles be rescinded, and that this action be complemented with the amendment of Articles 11 and 12, whereby the governing organizations of our political party will have a regular term of five years ending around October 1996. If the Arnulfist Party does not make the amendments to the statutes proposed in the extraordinary convention before 8 May 1993, it must hold a regular convention on the eve of, or during the electoral period. Consequently, new convention delegates, directors, dignitaries, and national advisers will have to be elected soon and corregimiento, district, and provincial conventions will have to be held throughout Republic. All of this would be detrimental to a timely, well thought out, and consulted selection of our candidates for president, legislators, mayors, and representatives.

Calling the extraordinary national convention on 24 April 1993 in Boquete, therefore, is not a thoughtless act stemming from internal party deals. It is intended to provide the country with guarantees for the organization of a national government, with the active participation of the political party that has contributed the most to Panamanian democracy, nationality, and social justice over the past 60 years. [Signed] Mireya Moscoso de Gruber, party president
[Issued] Panama City, 7 April 1993

### Health Minister Reports Receiving Death Threats

*PA2004163993 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p12C*

[Report by Orlando Mendieta]

[Text] Health Minister Guillermo Rolla Pimentel announced on 19 April that he will order the removal of

several Health Ministry officials suspected of being involved in the 16 April bomb attack against the ministry building. He also reported receiving several death threats over the telephone. The minister described those who engage in these acts as "raving mad," because they want to destabilize the country when the people want peace and work.

Rolla Pimentel indicated he has taken a series of steps with the persons directly or indirectly linked to the attack, ordering the dismissal of several officials.

He added that on 19 April unidentified individuals called his office to threaten him and other officials with death. According to Rolla Pimentel, these people threatened to machine-gun the building and place other explosives, including an incendiary device. These actions will not intimidate him, he said, adding that his enemies are wasting their time.

The Judicial Technical Police reported that the kind of explosive that went off at the Health Ministry building comes from a compound made with dynamite. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, which is the third one directed at institutions headed by members of the Arnulfist Party. Earlier bombs exploded at the Immigration Department and Passport Directorate.

## PTJ Captures Chiriqui Drug Cartel Head

*PA2004204193 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p 1A*

[Report by Orlando Mendieta C.]

[Text] On 19 April, Chiriqui provincial authorities arrested Jose Bernardo Grin, the area's alleged head drug dealer. It was also reported that, shortly after hiring a lawyer, National Police Second Lieutenant Sabin Castillo recanted all the statements he made at the Bocas del Toro prosecutor's office on drug trafficking in the province. Castillo had accused Major Rodrigo Colon Sanchez of accepting bribes from drug traffickers in exchange for looking the other way. Castillo has been transferred to the Technical Judicial Police [PTJ] main office in Panama City.

EL PANAMA AMERICA learned that Grin was arrested at his mistress' home by PTJ members on Prosecutor Roberto de Arco's order.

Grin was previously arrested on Prosecutor Emilio de Leon's order during "Operation VHS," when several members of an important drug-trafficking ring operating in Chiriqui were identified and arrested. Grin, however, escaped on 8 February and had been at large until PTJ men nabbed him on 19 April.

Although the name of Grin's mistress was not disclosed, she reportedly was detained because 15 hits of cocaine were found in her possession. Two other people were also detained.

In addition, the Chiriqui Higher Court has declared legal the arrest of PTJ member Napoleon Ibarra. The court feels there is sufficient evidence that Ibarra is involved with the province's drug traffickers. The court's decision was announced in a ruling turning down a habeas corpus appeal filed by lawyer Juan Ibarra on Napoleon Ibarra's behalf.

In Bocas del Toro province, political leader Luis Nuquez failed to appear before Prosecutor Luis Esquivel to be questioned on his alleged involvement in drug-trafficking activities. Authorities reportedly are considering the measures to be taken in this particular instance. Nunez traveled to Panama during the "Bocas Without Drugs" operation last week. His whereabouts are unknown.

Finally, the National Commission for the Study and Prevention of Drug-Related Crimes [Conapred] plans to stage a march in Chiriqui on 22 April in support of the Attorney General's office in the province. Conapred has asked the local secondary schools to send delegations to the march, which will start off at Plaza Cervantes.

## Argentina

### Government Begins Beef Export Talks With South Korea

*SK2004085293 Seoul YONHAP in English 0111 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Buenos Aires, April 18 [date as received] (YONHAP)—Argentina and South Korea have begun negotiations on beef exports, an Argentine newspaper reported on Monday.

LA CLARIN said that the talks began during the international beef conference in Sydney and that Korea had shown an affirmative response to imports of beef from Argentina.

The Korean delegation had asked about prices of Argentine beef, the paper said, and were told that Argentina could provide beef at prices some 40 percent less than other countries.

Korea imports around 200,000 tons of beef a year and the volume is expected to grow sharply, the paper said, so Argentina has an opportunity to sell beef to Korea because Korea depended heavily on Australia (50 percent of imports) and the United States (40 percent).

Argentine beef exporters promised to supply Korea with beef at below international prices, the paper said, adding that Argentina has also started negotiations with China on beef exports and was scheduled to dispatch a sales delegation in October.

Argentina has asked Korea to buy its beef on numerous occasions by direct and indirect channels, including Korea-Argentine joint committee meetings.

Uruguay is also to sound out Korea on the possibility of buying its beef, LA CLARIN said.

## Bolivia

### Paz Zamora Interviewed on Ties With Paraguay

*PY2104004293 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p 26*

["Exclusive" interview with Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora by special correspondent Gregorio Sanabria in La Paz; date not given]

[Text] [Sanabria] What is your opinion of democratization in Latin America?

[Paz Zamora] Look, we have fought so hard for it, and in this regard I can tell you we have made substantial progress. Yet we still have to work to have the democracy Latin Americans want: a social, economic, and political democracy in which we can benefit from progress on the basis of equality. In other words, I feel fine about the democracy we have attained, yet I am not fully satisfied, because I would like it to become better every day.

[Sanabria] What are the possible bilateral projects for Paraguay and Bolivia?

[Paz Zamora] What we now have is that great project of the waterway, as well as the communications infrastructure. The River Plate basin headwaters are in our two countries and in Brazil. I therefore consider it a strategic project. We have recently made significant progress in other projects, especially the promotion of business relations and trade between our two nations.

Our two countries share a long border and a long history, but we were not doing business. Yet things have now started up. Bolivia is buying from Paraguay, and we are also selling to Paraguay. I believe this will benefit the two countries.

[Sanabria] Are there other projects under study?

[Paz Zamora] Yes. There are prospects for highway interconnection, through the Transchaco Highway. We are making an effort here in Bolivia, but Paraguay is ahead of us in this area. But we will try to make the interconnection in order to let this major highway promote ties between our two countries.

On the other hand, there is also the issue that I discussed with President Rodriguez the last time I saw him. It is a program for the exchange of energy between Paraguay and Bolivia, involving the electric power produced by Paraguay and the gas produced by Bolivia. There is a long list of joint projects with Paraguay, which we should enlarge upon even further.

[Sanabria] How would you rate your work in the presidency, up to the present moment?

[Paz Zamora] I am satisfied, and I believe Bolivia is also satisfied. This makes me very happy. I believe these four years were not wasted. The Bolivia I will hand over to the next president will be a very different Bolivia, a country that will be better than the one I received from the previous president.

[Sanabria] What do you think of the next general elections in Paraguay?

[Paz Zamora] First, I am very satisfied that Paraguay, like Bolivia and the other countries of the Americas, has taken a serious course consolidated by democracy. I could personally see the great political maturity Paraguay is achieving. I am a friend of many Paraguayan political leaders. I consider all of them high-level leaders, and I am also sure President Rodriguez is seriously and really interested in bringing democracy to his country and in completing this process. In other words, going beyond any borders I feel happy, like any other Paraguayan, because Paraguayan democracy is moving forward.

## Brazil

### Government Issues 'Warning' on U.S. Trade Sanctions

*PY2004131393 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 19 Apr 93 p 16*

[Article by Jose Meirelles Passos]

[Text] Washington—Faced with the possibility of enduring U.S. commercial sanctions starting next month—this morning the directors of several enterprises will go to the U.S. Senate to protest acts of piracy and the lack of laws protecting intellectual property in Brazil—in the last few days the Brazilian Government has been using two different arguments in an attempt to prevent reprisals. During contacts with U.S. authorities, Brazilian diplomats and experts have made an "informal warning."

It has been suggested that punishment—such as a tax increase on the importation of Brazilian products or even a ban on the importing of some Brazilian products to the United States—may harm U.S. banks. They also have said that if the White House sticks to this decision that was disclosed a few days ago, Brazil also will reduce its importation of U.S. products.

Last weekend, during a meeting to discuss bilateral trade in Washington, Rubens Barbosa, Itamaraty secretary general for economic affairs and foreign trade, insinuated that Brazil will make less if barriers are placed on its exports. This, he said, will cause problems in honoring Brazil's debt to U.S. banks.

Barbosa, an expert diplomat, made the warning in a tone of voice very characteristic of his circle. As he made his warning he also said Brazil is experiencing "stagflation," which would complicate matters even more if any reprisals are made. At the beginning of the meeting Barbosa told the U.S. participants: I do not want to elaborate on the important role foreign trade plays in the Brazilian adjustment process. We should remember, however, that the need to achieve a trade surplus that will allow us to service our foreign debt has greatly increased the importance foreign trade has for the Brazilian economy, thus currently becoming an important pillar of economic activity.

### U.S. Reaction to Patents Law Termed 'Hasty'

*PY2104002293 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso said that U.S. senators' criticism of the Brazilian patents law was extremely unpleasant.

Minister Cardoso termed hasty the U.S. Senate's intention to include Brazil on the list of countries liable to commercial sanctions should the Brazilian Congress approve on 28 April a law which does not adjust to international norms.

### Article on Patents Law Proposals

*PY2104011693 Sao Paulo VEJA in Portuguese 14 Apr 93 pp 76-79*

[Excerpts] Within a few days the Chamber of Deputies will have a chance to decide if Brazil will leave the exclusive club of countries that refuse to grant full protection on inventions. Brazil is a member of the world's most exclusive club, formed by the four countries that have not legislated on the intellectual production of researchers engaged in vital areas, such as the manufacture of medicine and biotechnology—the science that explores the genetic resources of plants and animals. Just a few languages are spoken at this club of pirates: Bantu, the tribal language of Malawi; Spanish, spoken in Colombia and Argentina; and Brazil's Portuguese. That's it. There are no other members. The other 186 nations of our planet protect, without exception, the inventions devised by their citizens or by foreigners who want to market them on their territory.

After two years of deliberations, Brazilian congressmen will finally vote on an industrial property code that will be acceptable for our country. A bill sponsored by PFL [Liberal Front Party] Deputy Ney Lopes from Rio Grande do Norte State is the proposal that comes closest to international rules and regulations. Another proposal, inspired by strong nationalist sentiments but with predictably disastrous results, was drawn up by experts and has the trademark of the Itamar Franco Government. The latter proposal is not what it seems. It confirms excessive protection for Brazilian plagiarists and keeps our country in the club of international pirates. Lopes says: "According to my calculations, 315 deputies will vote for my bill while 152 will support the government bill. About 36 deputies remain undecided." He spent Easter Week trying to add changes to his bill that will be politically appealing to the deputies that support the government bill, but which will not distort his original proposal.

According to the government's projected vote count, the result will be closer. Ney Lopes' proposal would receive just 249 votes while the government proposal would receive 219 votes. The final decision will depend on the undecided deputies, especially those from the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party] and the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party]. It is a complicated formula. Lopes' bill is like a window open to the world. The government bill represents confirmation of the esteem for the club of four, the team of pirates. The difference lies in the extent of the protection that is granted to the inventors through patents. [passage omitted]

The government bill would be a disaster for our country because it does not resolve anything; it even closes the doors on many innovations of foreign origin. The government bill's black holes are:

—Only patents for microorganisms will be granted. Trade protection for plants (such as the Vicosa soybean) and animals bred in laboratories using genetic engineering is still forbidden.
—Brazil will only recognize patents on pharmaceutical products that are not marketed in any other country. This means that a new medicine against cancer, for example, launched in the United States last month, will not be entitled to a Brazilian patent.
—Brazil will only accept patents that have not been registered or disseminated abroad. This means that the Brazilian Government expects inventors throughout the world to rush to Brazil to register their ideas even before registering their ideas in their own countries of origin. Deputy Ney Lopes, the sponsor of the more intelligent law, says: "These articles in the government bill do not resolve any of the basic problems of the patents issue in Brazil." Under the Lopes bill, Brazil will recognize biotechnological patents on bacteria, animals, and plants, but will not protect living beings found in nature or produced naturally. Concerning medicines, the Lopes bill puts Brazil on the turf, playing under the best international rules and regulations. According to this bill, our country will accept medicine patents even if they are already effective in their countries of origin. The bill makes a single proviso: Medicines already being copied may continue to be sold. New versions will be forbidden. [passage omitted]

### Technology Transfer Agreement To Be Signed With Russia

*PY1904225193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 28*

[Text] Brasilia—Brazil will be able to use Russian technology to build a satellite launching vehicle (VLS). Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso announced yesterday that the agreement whereby Russia will supply Brazil with technology may be signed next month during Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's stay in Brazil. Kozyrev is scheduled to arrive in Brazil on 6 May. Cardoso met yesterday with members of a Russian mission headed by Sergey Glazyev, minister for foreign economic relations.

Cardoso believes that the transfer of highly sensitive technology—which may be used either for peaceful or military purposes—will not be interrupted by international pressure. This position is shared both by Brazil and Russia. Cardoso said that Brazil agrees to having its facilities periodically inspected but will not accept any constraints on its free trade rights. By way of example, he mentioned the agreement with Argentina on the mutual inspection of nuclear facilities.

The foreign minister said: "The transfer of sensitive technology can only spur economic development."

Brazil and Russia might also sign cooperation agreements in areas such as transport and telecommunications. While at the Foreign Ministry, the members of the Russian mission discussed the transport of cargo over great distances. They wanted to learn from Brazilian experience, seeking to improve Russian transportation system.

The Russian trade mission will meet this morning with Brazilian exporters at the Copacabana Palace Hotel to discuss ways of furthering trade relations between the two countries. The meeting is sponsored by the Foreign Trade Association of Brazil (AEB).

### Visiting PRC Official Discusses Economics, Trade

*PY2004205593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 15 Apr 93 p 24*

[Interview with Wang Huijiong, deputy director general of the Development Research Center of the PRC State Council, who is paying his first visit to Brazil at the invitation of the Getulio Vargas Foundation, by Claudia Moretz-Sohn; place and date not given]

[Text] [Moretz-Sohn] Did you come to Brazil especially to take part in a seminar?

[Wang] Yes. Brazil is the largest country in Latin America, and had great industrial growth from 1968 to 1974. The PRC and Brazil are in the developing stages, and can exchange experiences.

[Moretz-Sohn] What happened in China after the economic reforms?

[Wang] The great difference was mobilization around a common objective: economic growth. Before the reform in 1978, we had already had some degree of industrialization, but it was on a Soviet model with Chinese characteristics. After the reform we adopted our own economic model.

[Moretz-Sohn] What was inflation like before the reform?

[Wang] Because of our peculiar political and economic system, inflation did not go over 2 percent a year before 1978-1979. Even after the economic reforms the highest rates were 8.8 percent in 1985 and 8.5 percent in 1988. The government implemented austerity programs to reduce inflation to 3 percent in 1990. In 1992 we had an inflation rate of about 5 to 6 percent.

[Moretz-Sohn] China has low inflation. It exported goods worth $85 billion in 1992, and it is growing at a rate of 13 percent a year. What is the recipe for that success?

[Wang] One of the components of growth is investment, and the other is exports. The secret is to import little and export a lot. In China we have another variable: savings. The Chinese people save a lot. Our savings represent 64 to 65 percent of the gross domestic product. This is why the government has money to invest. In the United States investments do not go over 10 percent of the gross domestic product. In the 1960's, however, we did not

have enough food for the population, and the investments made were basically in heavy industry. After the reforms we started searching for an equilibrium.

[Moretz-Sohn] How can Brazilian-Chinese trade can be increased?

[Wang] Through government policy, and by knowing each other better. The majority of the Chinese people do not know what Brazil produces.

### Suggests Increase in Investments

*PY2004212593 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 24*

[Text] According to Wang Huijiong, deputy director general of the Development Research Center, who is visiting the country, the Brazilian Government must curb monetary expansion by preventing the issuance of more money, and the population must consume less and save more. Huijiong yesterday lectured in Rio de Janeiro on industrialization and economic reform in the PRC, promoted by the Business Cooperation Committee (CCE) of the Getulio Vargas Foundation. He added that it would be good for Brazil to end the petroleum monopoly to attract foreign capital in that sector.

He said: "Trying to issue less money is one of the basic points in fighting inflation."

According to Huijiong, the lesser the consumption the greater will be the pressure to reduce prices. He lectured on Chinese development since the 1978 economic reform. With the gradual opening of the market, almost 50 percent of the economy is controlled by the state. According to him the tendency is, however, for the state to act only in priority areas such as health, education, and housing.

Huijiong said he is for an end to the petroleum monopoly in Brazil, so as to attract private investments. According to him, the PRC is interested in exchanges with Brazil in several areas, such as the production of fuel alcohol, aviation, and the electronics industry. According to Huijiong, there is no magic in the Chinese economic growth. The main cause is the high rate of internal savings, which fluctuates around 30 percent [as published] of the Gross Domestic Product.

"The people must be made aware of the importance of savings if they have sufficient food and clothing, and that is what we did in our country," he said.

### Visiting French Official on Trade Relations, Loan Prospects

*PY2004235993 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 Economy and Business Section p 4*

[Article by Marco Piquini]

[Excerpts] Jacques Desponts, chief of foreign trade relations at the French Commerce Ministry, stated yesterday that "France is willing to grant lines of credit to Brazil to boost financial cooperation between the two countries."

Desponts, who is making an official visit to Brazil, asserted that bilateral relations have changed since Brazil reached an agreement with the IMF in 1992. "Brazil has been honoring its commitments," he said.

French entrepreneurs are still interested in Brazil despite its unstable political and economic situation. Desponts is of the opinion that the country is going through "a silent revolution" which seeks its reinsertion into the world economy. The French are following very closely the Brazilian Government's program to grant franchises, privatize, and deregulate state-owned enterprises.

Desponts further stated that "Brazil is a 150 million strong consumer market, and nobody can afford to overlook this. Brazil plays an important role in the international arena." [passage omitted]

Desponts believes that in the face of the controversy that has arisen in international trade, it is necessary—and feasible—to reach a negotiated settlement among participants in the Uruguay Round of the GATT talks.

He underscored the fact that "France is not, and does not wish to be, protectionist, as 20 percent of its production is exported to foreign markets."

According to Desponts, criticism leveled at France's agricultural policy is exaggerated. He nonetheless warned that if Brazil wishes to attract foreign investment, it will have to give guarantees for the protection of intellectual property rights.

Yesterday Desponts was in Brasilia, where he called on the Ministries of Foreign Relations, Finance, the Navy, Communications, and Mines, Energy, and Metallurgy. He will end his official visit to Brazil on 19 April. Over the weekend he will tour Bahia. "I was told it is a gorgeous place, and I want to find out if this is true," he explained.

### New General Staff Chief Criticizes UN Security Council

*PY2004143293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 6*

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira, new chief of the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA), yesterday criticized the UN Security Council's actions when he said: "The richest and more powerful countries have real control over power for making decisions in accordance with their own interests, which are still common but with some indications of disagreement over the Balkans conflict." He added that countries like Brazil that are nonpermanent members are subject "to subtle bilateral pressure."

Admiral Pereira was installed yesterday morning by President Itamar Franco at Planalto Palace. In the afternoon he received his new post from General Antonio Luiz da Rocha Veneu, who will be the Brazilian political observer at the United Nations.

In his speech at EMFA headquarters, Pereira said: "It is understandable that the great powers are trying to legitimize their military interventions under UN protection." He added: "But the great international issues during the Cold War were at least put through the sieve or filter of the General Assembly, where more than 100 countries are represented."

Admiral Pereira added: "Now the axis of those decisions has undoubtedly been moved to the Security Council, where the great powers exercise their overwhelming veto power and the nonpermanent members are subject to subtle bilateral pressure." [passage omitted]

### President Franco Addresses Recently Promoted Generals

*PY2004155193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 8*

[Speech by President Itamar Franco to recently promoted officers at Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 16 April]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Ladies and gentlemen; young men and young ladies.

Today we are living through the challenge of a situation that demands a commitment of reason, patience, and good sense from all upright men—reason to assess the scope of the crisis spreading throughout the world and increasing our national difficulties; patience to continue working, without dismay, faithful to democratic principles and the principles of honesty, and to the honesty of objectives and the Christian faith; and good sense to renew the patriotic plea for the unity of all Brazilians in compliance with the legitimate aspirations of our people. Only in this manner will Brazil have the promising future and social peace we all aspire to so much.

The country's president has the public responsibility of affirming and defending a sacred virtue the military knows, maintains, and exalts: honor. Like any other citizen, I am living through a life marked by risks. Brazilians know that I have walked my life consistently and courageously, without yielding to the temptations of an easier life. My actions and positions are not marked by fear, personal interests, or excessive caution. The rashly hasty and weak people always believe that exercising the posts of president and Armed Forces commander in chief must be the task of a superman. I always keep in mind the humbleness of my origin. The austerity and modesty with which I was educated at home lead me to preserve at any cost the honor with which my post is vested.

My only guiding principle must be the national Constitution and the laws. Those, and only those, are the guardians of the country's governability.

There is much work yet to be done and many challenges to overcome ahead of us. It is still too early to start thinking of other unquenchable aspirations.

For that very reason I state that the president of the Republic will never be a slave to the plebiscite results, the succession policy, the parties, or anyone.

The nation expects from this transition government moral integrity, planned work, and a struggle for a better future for its suffering and abandoned people, who cannot lose faith and hope in the days to come.

Social injustice, the scandalous concentration of wealth in the hands of a privileged minority, and the imbalance existing among the different regions reflect a pathetic picture of problems in the health, education, security, housing, inflation, and the inhumane recession areas within the Brazilian reality. It is that picture that offends my sensibility as a public man, my conscience and that of all Brazilians.

I hope, therefore, now that you are beginning a new and edifying professional life, notwithstanding all the limitations the current situation imposes on you, that you will follow the example of your distinguished predecessors who knew how to turn our Armed Forces into institutions in which the nation can fully trust, as pillars of national integrity and pillars of law and order.

Brazil is not just an economic structure or a mere geographic extension. Brazil is people. The government cannot act alone when discussing the problems of all, especially the great national issues that cannot do without the contribution of all of Brazilian society. And that confidence, Messrs. Generals, will allow the country to discuss its problems within the framework of a fully democratic freedom and to also choose its destiny within fully democratic freedom.

Be happy!

### Franco Approves $21.56 Billion To Fight Starvation

*PY2004145093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 4*

[All figures as published]

[Excerpts] Brasilia—President Itamar Franco yesterday approved a plan to fight starvation and misery, providing for $21.56 billion in expenditures for 1993. The plan provides for the creation of 1.5 million jobs. Funds for the project, however, will not be totally new because the plan includes the payment of retirement allowances ($1.58 billion) and unemployment insurance ($5.3 billion), which are two programs that already are being implemented. Caxias Bishop Mauro Morelli, who will be the Nutrition Security Council's executive secretary, said

the plan's most outstanding merit "is its political significance, which was reaffirmed when the president said it was a top priority for his government." [passage omitted]

**Fund Breakdown**

Labor Ministry
Creation of jobs: $1.158 billion from the FAT [Workers' Assistance Fund].
Unemployment insurance: $5.3 billion, of which $2.7 billion will be earmarked for insurance payments.
Workers' Nutrition Program: $8 billion (compensation to corporations and fiscal incentives).

Agriculture Ministry
93/94 harvest: Funds still have to be established.
Farm research and technical assistance: $107.1 million.
Land Reform: $400 million to support 100 settled families and 20,000 families who still have to settle.
BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social Development] (funds for financing)
Naval construction: 212 million [no currency specified].
Investment, machines, and equipment: $349 million.
Automobile sector: $142 million.
Small and mid-sized enterprises: $67 million.
CEF [Federal Savings Bank]
Credits to small and mid-sized enterprises: $56 million.
Basic sanitation projects: $20 million.

Health Ministry
Milk and Health program: $105 million (to meet demands of 20 percent of beneficiaries).

Social Welfare Ministry
Construction of houses: $1.567 billion.
Social Action Program for Sanitation: $500 million ($350 million from an IDB [Inter-American Development Bank] loan).
LBA [Brazilian Welfare Legion] programs: $280 million.
CBIA [expansion unknown] programs: $148 million.

Social Security Ministry
Payment of allowances: $1.58 billion.

Education and Sports Ministry
School breakfast plan: $795 million.

Transport Ministry
Construction of highways in the northeast: $400 million.

Regional Integration Ministry
Irrigation: $1.7 million.
Support for rural communities: $536 million.
Labor areas: $190 million.
Total program expenditures: $21.562 billion.

## National Company Allows Food To Spoil

*PY2004150093 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 18 Apr 93 p 1*

[Text] Even though President Itamar Franco has chosen to fight starvation as his government's priority target, for which purpose he announced the release of $21.56 billion for feeding low-income families, more than 3,000 metric tons of food already have rotted in the hands of the National Supply Company (Conab), which takes care of buffer stocks. The same thing may happen to another 30,000 metric tons, with which it would be possible to feed 4.5 million children for one month. In the current system, some harvest storage agents can divert part of the products in order to buy them later, at Conab's auctions, at very low prices. Storage agents still owe large amounts to Conab. Their debt currently stands at around 3.5 trillion cruzeiros.

## Compensation for Repression Victims Discussed by Military

*PY2104002493 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Apr 93 p 8*

[Report by Tania Monteiro]

[Text] Brasilia—Justice Minister Mauricio Correa took advantage of the ceremony to install Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira as new Armed Forces chief of staff to talk with military ministers about the proposal to compensate relatives of missing political prisoners. The military are against it because they were involved in a war with leftist groups at the end of the 1960's and the beginning of the 1970's and fear the issue will evolve into an unnecessary debate about the past. The proposal is believed to have been the main reason for a bitter disagreement between the justice minister and President Itamar Franco on 14 April in the presence of Military Household Chief Minister Fernando Cardoso.

Navy Minister Admiral Ivan Serpa said the outcome will depend on how the issue is handled. Serpa said he was not aware of the details of the proposal: "It will be very bad if people take advantage of this to blame each other for things that happened all those years ago. At that time the country was fighting guerrillas," Serpa warned. "What happened is in the past. We must not stir it up again, particularly because both sides were amnestied." The admiral accepted the idea of discussing the legal aspects of paying compensation to the relatives "victims," but he did not like the idea of letting the matter degenerate into accusations against those who acted during that time. "The time is not right for that," Serpa said.

Aeronautics Minister Brigadier Lelio Viana Lobo received a copy of the proposal at the beginning of the week. He said he did not have time to analyze but left the proposal in the hands of his legal advisers.

Army spokesman General Gilberto Serra said that Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena is not worried because he considers it outside his area, that it is a matter for the Justice Ministry to resolve. The general noted that the country "was in a state of war" and in his opinion "compensation should be collected from those who organized those movements." The Army spokesman said: "People want to make us responsible for something we are not. We were at war, fighting an

enemy." The spokesman said that most of the victims were not even identified, and for that reason it would be difficult to compensate their relatives.

The new Armed Forces chief of staff said he did not object to discussing the matter. "I do not believe anyone wants revenge," Admiral Leite said, adding that society has overcome the problems of that era. General Ivan de Souza Mendes, former head of the National Intelligence Service, did not like the idea. He refused to discuss it saying that the matter was not a priority and it was not on today's agenda.

## Chile

### Aylwin Creates Public Security, Intelligence Organ

*PY2004205093 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] President Patricio Aylwin has promulgated the law creating the Directorate of Public Security and Intelligence, which is conceived of as the top organ of an intelligence system within the framework of the country's internal security.

This information has been released by Interior Minister Enrique Krauss, who said that the new organ should improve coordination between the police forces.

[Begin Krauss recording] The directorate is thus an essential instrument for designing policies for preventing and repressing terrorism and crime; for gathering, receiving, and processing information to produce intelligence within the framnework of the country's internal security; and for providing the background and studies requested by the interior minister, in order to properly coordinate the work by Carabineros and the Investigative Police. [end recording]

Krauss added that the directorate does not have those operational functions which are fulfilled by the forces of order and security, noting that our legal system assigns such duties—in normal times—exclusively to those police organs.

The minister said that organs gathering information which aims at preventing criminal actions should concentrate on maintaining what directly serves their objectives, rather than accumulating information on the private lives of people.

He emphasized that the information should be legally obtained and should be legally used, that is, for preventing disruptions in the social order and tranquillity.

Lawyer Isidro Solis, former prison police director, was designated director of the new organ.

[Begin Solis recording] I am really very happy. I believe this reflects confidence on the part of the government, in an area that is extraordinarily sensitive. Maintaining public order and the responsibility for the security of people are unpostponable obligations for all states and governments. I believe that being in charge of such responsibility is an extraordinary honor. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Deputy Andres Chadwick said that even though the promulgation of the law is a positive step, it is insufficient. He reiterated that pardoning terrorists remains a very bad signal.

### Interview With Bolivian Foreign Minister

*PY2004212793 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Apr 93 pp A1, A11*

[Article by Maria Jose Errazuriz]

[Text] Santa Cruz de la Sierra—The possibility of territorial compensation and the resumption of diplomatic relations with Chile are among the elements that the Bolivian Foreign Ministry will study, sometime in the future, within the framework of the negotiations related to the Bolivian landlocked situation.

Bolivian Foreign Minister Ronald MacLean said this during an exclusive interview with EL MERCURIO. He emphasized the good level of bilateral relations.

MacLean arrived yesterday in this city to attend a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Rio Group. He gave this newspaper an extensive evaluation of current relations at the commercial level which will lead to the signing, possibly on 6 April, of an economic complementation agreement between the two countries.

MacLean said that, within current bilateral relations, Bolivia considers the discussion of a Bolivian sea outlet a priority. He asserted that President Jaime Paz Zamora's administration wants to establish relations with Chile. MacLean said commercial relations will "inevitably" lead to a solution to the Bolivian landlocked situation, and that substantial progress has been made to overcome the constraints created against the resumption of diplomatic relations.

MacLean said that the changing position of Bolivian officials on this matter and the way past Bolivian governments conditioned any relationship to the landlocked problem have prevented progress at other levels. He said that a solution could now be found to the current problem, although not immediately.

He said: "The previous position was more belligerent, a position of confrontation seeking a sea outlet while indirectly creating an air of animosity." He added that this has changed. He said: "The priority has not changed. What has changed is the focus and the emphasis placed on it. The idea is to create the necessary conditions through practical and simple factors. The Bolivian desire for a sea outlet has not been forgotten."

Asked if a solution will be found through the reestablishment of diplomatic relations, which have been kept at a consular level since 1978, MacLean replied that it is possible. He added: "By not maintaining diplomatic

relations, we are telling Chile and the world that there is something pending. It is an instrument of foreign policy that can be replaced."

MacLean said: "The resumption of diplomatic relations is a step toward the basic solution of the problem," adding that relations are conditioned to Chilean recognition that there is an issue pending between the two countries.

MacLean, who has a family relationship with outstanding Chilean businessmen like Andronico Luksic, added that there is a new attitude in the two countries and that the mistrust existing between them has been greatly overcome.

"The task of our governments is to convey a positive attitude" said MacLean who then referred to the mistrust perceived among the population. Asked if Chile's perception that there is no pending problem over the sea outlet is shared by all Chileans, MacLean said that he believes informed and progressive Chileans do not think that way and that conservative positions are now evolving toward a solution.

He explained that he is against taking the initiative over proposing a solution. He said proposals were made "in a cold environment in which neither Chile nor Bolivia" were ready to discuss the issue. He added: "This is our medium-range objective. Progress must be made steadily, without rushing. Bolivia does not want to present a proposal; it wants an understanding at all levels."

MacLean confirmed that Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora's comment that one facet of Chile has yet to be modernized was not aimed at the Chilean Foreign Ministry. He said: "Relations between the two countries have greatly improved. There was some uncertainty and reservation before the OAS meeting but that mistrust has now been overcome."

He added that the conservative position is concentrated in sectors close to the government. These sectors maintain their position through an attitude of imposition and mistrust.

MacLean said: "Bolivia sees signs of better understanding by the Chilean Government, a position of rapprochement. It is obvious that a president must have the support of his people and this is why a consensus must be sought." He added that this change in diplomacy was not easily discernible yet after 88 years Chile and Bolivia in a short time were able to overcome the border demarcation problem.

Regarding a possible territorial compensation in case of negotiations, MacLean said: "We have been willing to do this and could be willing again."

MacLean said: "We are talking about a negotiation involving the interests of the two countries." He also recalled the comments of former Chilean President Augusto Pinochet who said Chile cannot come out of the negotiations with less territory.

He said: "In good negotiations all parties gain and we are willing to explore all possibilities."

Asked if an enclave without a corridor to the sea could be a possibility, he said: "The definition of the problem is changing. The solution must be functional, operational, and favorable to all."

He said: "A corridor without the necessary infrastructure or only 5 km of coast has no meaning in the modern world." He said that any solution must consider a joint formula between Chile and Peru. Asked if the functional solution he proposes is a free trade zone, MacLean said: "We must see if that would satisfy the Bolivian people. Perception continues to change. We may go that way, even further."

MacLean said: "For the time being Bolivia does not want a sea outlet just for its economic activities. The Bolivian people would not understand or accept this, but perceptions change with time."

MacLean reiterated that the economic complementation agreement that is to be signed is not a substitute for the sea outlet. This is the basis of the criticism from the opposition, which says the agreement must be conditioned to a sea outlet. MacLean explained that the criticism is motivated by the current electoral process in Bolivia. He recalled that the Bolivian Congress approved the economic negotiations by a large majority.

Regarding the smuggling of consumer products and drugs that could result from access to the sea, MacLean explained that the former involves informal business that will total about $30 to $50 million. He said this does not worry him although there is some opposition because this transition stage seeks to end all illegal business.

He said the economic complementation agreement is not an isolated fact and it will serve to strengthen economic links.

Regarding drugs, MacLean said the governments of Chile and Bolivia signed an agreement that foresees an exchange of information and mutual cooperation. He expressed concern over the laundering of drug money and the importation from Chile of the precursors used to make cocaine.

## PDI Closes Second Convention, Elects Executive Board

*PY2104012193 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Apr 93 p C2*

[Excerpt] The Leftist Democratic Participation Movement, PDI, closed its second national convention—held at the former Congress building, which currently houses the Foreign Ministry—with the election of its new executive board.

Fanny Pollarolo and Antonio Leal were reelected president and secretary general, respectively. Luis Guastavino, Alejandro Toro, and Mariano Requena were elected first, second, and third vice presidents, respectively. Moreover, Pablo Meckenburg was elected chairman of the political commission, and Carlos Fuchslocher was elected chief of the PDI electoral districts. [passage omitted]

## Colombia

### Former Escobar Associate Castano Issues Communique

*PA2004230693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Report on communique issued by former paramilitary Fidel Castano; place and date not given]

[Text] Former paramilitary Fidel Castano states the following in a communique sent to the media and signed Pablo Escobar style, that is, with Castano's fingerprint:

1. That he has cooperated with the authorities for the capture of the Medellin Cartel chief by providing information on locations and names of that organization's members.

2. That he is not seeking any benefit from the justice system by providing the information. One must recall that a judge sentenced Castano to 20 years in prison for the massacres in the hamlets of Honduras and La Negra in Uraba.

3. That he has not reorganized his group since its demobilization in 1990, even though he is convinced that private justice groups obtain excellent results.

4. That the Colombian Government cannot expect the Armed Forces to dominate such a powerful criminal organization as Escobar's without the people's support.

5. That he will surrender to justice after Pablo Escobar has been captured.

Some time ago Castanos and Escobar were friends in Medellin. For six years he was involved in the drug business. It is not known exactly when the dispute began, but it is a fact that Escobar's organization murdered two of Castanos' best friends; Henry de Jesus Perez and Fernando Galeano. That is why security institutions have not ruled out the possibility that Castano is the man behind the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar group.

### Defense Minister on Castano Communique

*PA2104144693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Apr 93*

[Interview with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda by Azucena Lievano at the Chamber of Representatives in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Text] [Lievano] It is 1910 and we are here at the Chamber of Representatives with Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda. Dr. Pardo, regarding the communique sent to the media by Fidel Castano, leader of the Persecuted by Pablo Escobar [Pepes] group, what is the national government's opinion?

[Pardo] It is not my custom—and I believe citizens understand this because of the nature of my duties—to give an opinion or to analyze publicly communiques issued by people who violate the law.

[Lievano] He has said, however, that he has cooperated with the authorities. How could that be proven?

[Pardo] It is not up to me to judge that or to state my opinion.

[Lievano] He said he would turn himself in after Pablo Escobar surrenders.

[Pardo] I do not care to express an opinion on this matter because, I repeat, he has violated the law and it is not up to me to state an opinion on communiques issued by people of this kind.

[Lievano] It is being said that security measures will be tightened at the maximum security prison in Itagui after authorities found certain inmates with weapons. Can you tell us about the new security measures, and will there be greater control at the Itagui prison?

[Pardo] At the request of the National Prison Directorate, a thorough inspection was conducted at the prison. A report was submitted to the National Prison Directorate and to the Prosecutor General's Office.

[Lievano] Have measures been tightened? Will the inmates be separated or will they all stay together?

[Pardo] Those decisions must be made by the National Prison Directorate and the Prosecutor General's Office.

[Lievano] An agreement has been reached with the United States to fight the cultivation of poppy plants throughout the country with the help of satellites. How will this agreement be implemented and when will it begin?

[Pardo] We have been thinking about developing a system for the early detection of crops using satellites. Experiments have already been conducted, and we are working with the Narcotics Directorate to see if we could develop the procedure, which could turn out to be very useful.

[Lievano] Defense Minister, thank you for cooperating with us in this newscast.

### Pepes Bombs Escobar Building in Medellin; No Casualties

*PA2004131993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 92*

[Excerpt] The Pepes [Persecuted by Pablo Escobar] have launched a new attack in the past few hours. In the predawn hours of 20 April, heavily armed men attacked two buildings—Dallas and Nova Tempo—on El Poblado Avenue in Medellin. Jairo Calle is in Medellin with this report. Good morning, Jairo.

[Calle] Good morning. The all out war declared by the so-called Pepes against Pablo Escobar continued in the early morning hours of 20 April with a dynamite attack on a building owned by the Medellin Cartel chief in El Poblado, southern Medellin.

Eyewitnesses reported that at approximately 0035 [0535 GMT] on the morning of 20 April, men traveling in a black station wagon with a red cover detonated two 20-kg bombs at the Dallas Building, owned by Pablo Escobar, which was seriously damaged. Luckily, there were no casualties because the building was empty.

The shockwave affected the Nova Tempo Building, which is owned by the International Real Estate Company, Bank of Colombia, Antioquia Miners Association, and the Uma Advertising Company. The windows of all the offices in the building were destroyed.

Residents of the Nova Tempo Building, which was affected by the shockwave, have voiced their dissatisfaction and indignation. They explained that their building does not belong to Pablo Escobar. They noted the negligence of security organizations which, according to them, did not take measures to avoid this incident, despite the fact that it had been announced. It was known that Escobar was the owner of the Dallas Building and that the building had been the object of several threats. [passage omitted]

### Authorities Search for Weapons at Itagui Prison

*PA1904201693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] An unannounced and thorough search is taking place right now at Itagui Prison. Authorities of the Attorney General's Office, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the National Prison Directorate are seeking weapons and some banned articles the inmates are suspected of hiding in caches. Here is the video sent to us by our correspondent Diego Alonso Sanchez. This film was taken this morning during the raid at the maximum security jail.

Authorities arrived unannounced, prompted by reports of a possible escape or weapons the inmates may be have hidden in caches. This prison is where the aides of drug boss Pablo Escobar, who escaped with him and who later surrendered one by one, are being held.

### Authorities Arrest Hijacker; No Injuries Reported

*PA1804215593 Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1947 GMT 18 Apr 93*

[Report by Eduardo Lozano at the Cadena Nacional studio and Pedro Fuquen at El Dorado International Airport in Santa Fe de Bogota on 18 April—live]

[Text] [Lozano] A few minutes ago, an Intercontinental Company airplane was hijacked. The airplane was flying from Arauca to Santa Fe de Bogota.

[Fuquen] An airplane with registration number HK-2865, a DC-9 belonging to the Intercontinental Aviation Company was hijacked approximately at 1200 [1700 GMT] and has been on the main landing strip of El Dorado Airport for 20 minutes, waiting to be fueled.

Apparently there are several hijackers inside the airplane. The airplane is carrying 40 people and was flying from Arauca to the capital of the Republic.

Air traffic operations have been suspended in the central area of the country in case this situation evolves unfavorably.

Civilian aeronautics authorities reported operations will remain suspended and that flights have been detoured to Cali, Barranquilla, and Medellin until the situation is solved.

At this time, the hijackers' demands are not known, but, we repeat, an Intercontinental Company airplane has been hijacked at approximately 1200 on 18 April.

[Lozano] How many people can this airplane carry?

[Fuquen] This airplane can carry over 100 people. It is a DC- 9, which is the type of airplane this airline uses. It is a very versatile plane. This airplane could cover a range for a flight from Santa Fe de Bogota to the Caribbean islands, for instance, or even fly to Miami in the United States.

[Lozano] It has been many years since an airplane has been hijacked in Colombia.

Up to this moment, our sources and official sources do not exactly know the hijackers' motives to hijack this airplane in mid- flight from Arauca to Santa Fe de Bogota. The registration number is HK-2865. Is that right?

[Fuquen] It is HK-2865 and the airplane is a newer DC-9 of the Intercontinental Aviation Company. We must point out that it is the only company that uses this type of airplane in Colombia.

The Satena Aviation Company has also started using a new kind of airplane for this route.

This airplane can carry over 100 persons and has two aft turbines. We must point out that it is a very versatile airplane, which is being used by airlines around the world due to its size.

We repeat, at approximately 1200, an Intercontinental airplane has been hijacked. Apparently, the hijackers are asking that it be refueled in order to continue its flight to a still undisclosed destination.

[Lozano] Thank you, Pedro. The crew members reported to the control tower through special signals that the Intercontinental airplane was hijacked by several men. The hijackers have requested through the crew members that the airplane be refueled.

[Santa Fe de Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish at 1951 GMT 18 April reports: "The hijacker, who apparently had a gun, was subdued by the crew members. During a moment of confusion, the passengers jumped through the emergency doors and police boarded the aircraft. The hijacker is already in police custody. No one was hurt and there were no fatalities, according to the latest reports we received from the authorities at El Dorado International Airport and the control tower."]

### Police Arrest Leader of Hired Assassin Gang

*PA1904195193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] Argimiro Borja, alias Miro, whom the police accuse of being the leader of a group of hired assassins, was arrested on 19 April in Medellin, Antioquia Department. He is accused of killing several policemen, of extortion, car theft, and terrorism. Borja was the head of Los Nachos group, a criminal organization at the service of Pablo Escobar that operates in the area northeast of Medellin.

### Former Rebels To Train as DAS Detectives in Rural Areas

*PA1904173993 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] Former guerrillas will work as detectives of the Administrative Department of Security [DAS], according to a plan that seeks to incorporate them into DAS work in the rural areas, beginning in the Uraba zone.

Seeing is believing: 25 former guerrillas of the Popular Liberation Army [EPL], who laid down their weapons over two years ago, will join the new DAS agents corps in the Uraba banana region. The new DAS agents, who used to fight the state security corps, will have their garrison in Apartado and will receive regular detective training at the DAS school in Santa Fe de Bogota.

[Begin DAS Director Fernando Brito recording] They will receive training to fight kidnapping. They must train to perform their duties in rural areas. We must look after the logistics of the installations, transportation, and communications. [end recording]

As with other detectives, the new DAS rural agents must be high school graduates of less than 25 years of age, among other requirements. They will be tasked with controlling cattle rustling, maintaining order, and protecting their Hope, Peace, and Freedom comrades to curb the wave of murders against this group of former rebels.

[Begin EPL spokesman Carlos Francisco recording] We have lost close to 170 members of our group. Many people who have been active in the guerrillas wish to continue their lives in a military environment and will be able to do so within, not outside, the institutional system. [end recording]

To prevent abuses or other problems, the government says the DAS command will impose tight and clear controls on the admission of EPL guerrillas into its ranks.

### Drug Traffickers Begin Using Sea Routes

*PA2004044193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Report by Edgard Salas in Santa Marta]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, antinarcotic police delivered the hardest blows to date to drug traffickers in Colombia's Caribbean area: During an operation in La Guajira Department, Bahia Hondita, Uribia, 800 kg of cocaine were seized, valued at 7 billion pesos. The drug was to be transported to the Antilles.

In another operation, antinarcotics police uncovered various marijuana hideouts in Tayrona National Park, Sierra Nevada, Santa Marta, where they confiscated 200 tons of the drug. The drug was properly packaged and ready to be shipped out of the country by sea. The value is estimated at 360 million pesos.

[Begin recording] [Salas] Why are sea routes again being used for this type of shipment?

[Colonel Luis Fajardo, Atlantico Department police commander] Due to the discovery of illegal landing strips, drug traffickers can no longer land their planes as they previously did. This has forced them to use ships and they may also feel safer and can also transport greater amounts. [end recording]

No one was arrested in the operation.

### Authorities Discover Drug Money in Vitamin Shipment

*PA1904142193 Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 11 Apr 93 p 6A*

[Text] The labels of several plastic containers used to advertise various vitamins read: "A healthy body and mind." In fact, this was part of a new scheme to pay for

drug shipments, which was discovered by the police and regional Attorney General's Office in Cali.

The authorities discovered $112,790 (approximately 80 million pesos) covered with vitamin powder and granules and stored in small containers shipped from New York. The money was sent via air courier to pay for heroin and cocaine shipments from Cali.

Ten persons were arrested during the operation. They are all members of a network that used computers, fax machines, communication equipment, weapons, and vehicles to control the operations.

The following were arrested in the residential areas of El Rincon de las Quintas and San Felipe: Armando Marmol Morales, Consuelo Ortiz Urquijo, Orlando Ordonez, Vidal, Eduardo Carvajal Molina, Gloria Ines Duque, Julian Fernando Gomez Arizala, Humberto Cruz, Gloria Urquijo, Naydu Urquijo, and Adela Lozano de Urquijo. Consuelo Ortiz Urquijo also had documents in her possession that identified her as Carlina Velasquez and many of the packages were addressed to her name.

The boxes of vitamins and money shipped from the United States had the following return address: 4560 158th St., 4358 Apt. 3c, Flushing, N.Y. [address as published].

The money, in $100 bills, was stored in the bottom of the vitamin containers, which were labeled: Cutting Advantage, Dr. Rico Perez, and Super Energy. They were sent by Enrique Castro and Lucy Morales from New York.

Likewise, 1.398 grams of heroin and 1 kg of cocaine were seized during one of the raids. The authorities also confiscated two 7.65 caliber guns, two beepers, three automobiles (a BMW, a Mazda, and a Honda), a station wagon, checkbooks, bank statements, documents, deeds, and diskettes with information—which are currently being analyzed by the authorities.

Part of the money was seized by the authorities at the E.M.S. Air Courier offices. Three boxes addressed to Consuelo Ortiz Urquijo and Carlina Velasquez were opened in the presence of officials from the Regional Attorney General's Office and the District Prosecutor's Office.

### Authorities Destroy Cocaine Processing Lab in Valle

*PA1704153193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Apr 93*

[Text] Authorities in northern Valle Del Cauca Department dismantled a sophisticated laboratory capable of processing more than one ton of cocaine. The operation took place in a rural area known as El Vergel, near El Zarzal municipality, where the Army found microwave ovens, dryers, canisters and drums containing raw materials, and presses capable of compacting 20 one-pound packages at a time.

The operation extended to Cali. The police found 13 packages of cocaine and 30 sticks of dynamite inside a cistern truck, which came from Ecuador. The authorities believe the material was not destined for use in Valle, but was to be taken to the countryside.

## Ecuador

### Transnational Oil Companies Depart Country

*PA2004160593 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] The Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise [Petroecuador] has confirmed that five transnational companies have left the country in the past few months.

Belco, PetroCanada, Esso-Hispanoil, Texaco, and Unocal have decided to leave the country as their petroleum exploration and exploitation efforts have shown few results.

Petroecuador said their departure is also justified because those transnational companies operate under risk contracts. Whether or not they stay in the country depends on the success of their operations.

### Further on Companies' Departure

*PA1904194193 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1607 GMT 19 Apr 93*

[Text] Quito, 19 Apr (EFE)—At least five transnational companies have left Ecuador in the past few months because their crude oil exploration and drilling work in the Amazon region did not yield good results, sources at the state owned Ecuadoran State Petroleum Enterprise [Petroecuador] confirmed on 19 April.

In remarks to EFE, a Petroecuador spokesman said the companies that left the country are Belco, Petrocanada, the Esso-Hispanoil consortium, Texaco-Pecten, and Unocal.

In addition, the Braspetro Company temporarily suspended its operations in Ecuador until the government defines its policy on heavy crude. Other transnational companies decided to leave or yielded to other companies parts of the exploration areas assigned to them.

According to this source, the companies left because they were operating under risk contracts [contratos de riesgo], which means that if they do not find profitable oil reserves to justify their investments they can simply leave.

The spokesman denied the rumors circulating in the country that the oil companies left Ecuador because the government of President Sixto Duran-Ballen had failed to provide them with facilities or guarantees.

Ecuador produces approximately 340,000 barrels of crude a day, with 210,000 barrels exported, mainly to the United States, and the rest used for domestic consumption.

## Paraguay

### Army Signs Letter of Intent With Argentina To Bolster Ties

*PY2004184893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 11*

[Text] In their capacity as representatives of the Argentine and Paraguayan Armies, Division General Pedro Concepcion de la Cruz Ocampos, Paraguayan Army commander; and Lieutenant General Martin Antonio Balza, Argentine Army chief of staff, last night signed a letter of intent with the objective of increasing bilateral cooperation and professional ties in order to strengthen ties between the Argentine and Paraguayan Armed Forces.

The letter of intent establishes that the two armies hereby resolve to increase the exchange of tools and mechanisms of information. It adds that this exchange and complementation program to be proposed and explained in detail will be implemented through one-year agreements. It states that the respective military attache offices will be entrusted with the coordination and liaison tasks.

The specific points included in the letter of intent refer to the need for the Argentine and Paraguayan Armies to strengthen ties through an exchange program designed for low-ranking personnel, starting with cadres, cadets, officer candidates, civilians, and eventually soldiers.

It notes the importance of promoting an exchange of opinion on specific subjects through attending seminars and conferences. It stresses the need for strengthening ties by introducing mountain training and by implementing a military education and training exchange course for instructors, students, and observers.

The letter of intent signed by the two high-ranking military chiefs expresses the need for increasing and continuing the courses and training programs conducted by the Argentine Technical Military Mission.

It explains that expenses for the housing, food, and domestic transportation of visiting personnel will be paid by the host army. International transportation costs will be covered by each army unless it is specified otherwise.

### Argentine Envoy Presents Credentials, Promises To Resolve Dispute

*PY2004192593 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p 6*

[Text] "Argentina is fully willing for the Pilcomayo River problem be resolved. It always has been willing and I have the word of my president." This was stated by the new Argentine ambassador [Raul Carignano] after he presented his credentials that qualify him as the new representative in Asuncion for Carlos Menem's government.

The Argentine diplomat said that the problem of the alteration of the Pilcomayo River's course is on the way to a solution, indicating this is a current problem affecting our relations, but it will be definitively resolved within a short time.

After presenting his credentials, Carignano chatted with media representatives at Government House, and he stated that he has known for a long time that General Rodriguez "is a major democrat." After talking with the chief of state, he reaffirmed that he is absolutely convinced that Paraguay and Argentina have to look toward the future and the many things that unite them.

He said that relations between the two countries will improve as time goes by and there will be solutions that will increasingly be frameworked within the main objective of building a brotherhood of interests between the two countries.

The Argentine diplomat also said that the Mercosur [Common Market of the South] integration project "is a priority matter within its foreign policy" for Argentina, and he believes Paraguay's participation is a substantive and fundamental event for the implementation of this common market.

It must be pointed out that relations between the Argentine and Paraguayan Governments have cooled due to the Pilcomayo River's diversion and the statistical tax increase that affects our products, and this motivated the sudden postponement of the meeting between Menem and Rodriguez at the Yacyreta hydroelectric plant site.

### Commander of Military Forces Takes Oath of Office

*PY1904221793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 12*

[Text] "In these revolutionary times, fraught with momentous events that have changed Paraguay's political course, we could say that the 9 May elections and the presidential inauguration on 15 August this year will mark the end of the main stage of this revolution that was launched in our country, perhaps the end of the most important stage of our nation's history since its very independence." This statement was made this morning by the new Commander of Military Forces Eduardo Gonzalez Petit who took his oath of office at a ceremony presided over by General Andres Rodriguez, the president of the Nation and commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

The ceremony took place at the Francisco Solano Lopez Military College in Capiata. It was attended by the

commanders of the three Armed Forces Branches, high-ranking military officers, officers, and noncommissioned officers of the various services. The president of the Nation created the new position that Gonzalez Petit will now occupy through Decree No. 17883.

After taking the oath, the new commander of military forces addressed his comrades. He asked them for more enthusiasm and dedication "to maintain our strong customary unity and our loyalty toward his excellency the president of the nation so that, without wasting our time delving into past evils but by giving our best effort to building the present and the future, we can work honestly and patriotically following the glorious steps of those whose behavior and heroism helped to write the greatest pages of our history."

Gonzalez explained that his position was not that of acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, simply that of a close aide to the commander in chief.

Gonzalez said: "I have an important mission within the glorious Armed Forces that brought democracy to Paraguay and now, having accomplished this historical feat under the heroic leadership of Gen. Andres Rodriguez, will humbly and respectfully return to their barracks having satisfied the desire for freedom of their people and having provided the conditions of security and a constitutional state of law indispensable for the activities of political parties and political movements, without considering their philosophies or doctrines."

He concluded by stating that he does not know what will happen following the inauguration of the new president on 15 August. "I do not have the slightest idea what the new president will do, but I believe that he will certainly appoint a new commander of military forces," Gonzalez stated.

### Oviedo Says Military Wants 'Civilian Government'

*PY1604201493 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 93*

[Text] General Lino Cesar Oviedo, commander of the 1st Corps, has stated that modern political trends dictate that a country should have a civilian president, a democratic government, and a social market economy.

Gen. Oviedo clearly stated that the Paraguayan Armed Forces will respect the outcome of the 9 May general elections, irrespective of the winner.

[Begin recording] [Oviedo] We want a civilian president and a democratic system of government. Period. I do not know of any member of the Colorado militant faction running for president of the Republic, or having the chance to control the government structure. Yet if the people choose to elect them again, that will be the people's problem. I have said this time and again.

[Reporter Anibal Gomez] Right here at the 1st Corps headquarters, you said once during the Colorado internal elections that you did not approve of their return, at least not until after the 9 May elections are over.

[Oviedo] Please do not misquote me. Perhaps you think that I have a very short memory.

[Gomez] But you have been against the members of the Stroessnerist militant faction.

[Oviedo] I have never used the expression Stroessnerist militants. I am only against those who do not endorse democracy. I have never specified names, surnames, or factions.

[Gomez] You were against Argana, for instance.

[Oviedo] I have never said I was against Argana. I challenge you to bring me a recorded tape or clip of such remarks. I have never said I was against any individual. I am against ideologies. It is incumbent upon the people to decide who are the promoters of hatred, rancor, lies, slander, authoritarianism, political patronage, corruption, and dictatorship. All that is incumbent upon the people to decide. The only thing I am saying is that we want a civilian government and people who advocate democracy. Civilian governments and social market economies are prevailing in the world today. Period. We will not support those who do not endorse these principles. Yet if the people want to reinstate that system again, they are welcome to do so. We will also respect that. We will not do anything outside the boundaries of the Constitution and the laws of the Republic, because the Constitution has entrusted with the mission to protect all that has been legally constituted and the country's territorial integrity. [end recording]

### Discusses Political Views

*PY2004030093 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 19 Apr 93 p 48*

[Interview with Division General Lino Cesar Oviedo, commander of the 1st Corps, by unidentified reporter in Pozo Colorado, Chaco; date not given]

[Excerpts] [HOY] What can you tell us about the village inaugurated in Pozo Colorado?

[Oviedo] It is the prototype for a rural village we would like to build, not only in the Occidental Region but in the Oriental Region as well, to allow peasants to avoid having to leave their rural communities. [passage omitted]

[HOY] How can you explain the presence of National Encounter [EN] presidential candidate Guillermo Caballero Vargas at the village's inauguration?

[Oviedo] All those who had interests in the Chaco Region attended, particularly cattle raisers. I think he is a cattle raiser, apart from being an industrialist. Perhaps he was representing the Paraguayan Rural Association [ARP]. We sent an invitation to the ARP, and through it

to all its members. He is an ARP member, and I guess he came in that capacity. I did not make any personal invitations.

[HOY] Colorado Party representatives said they were surprised by [Colorado Party presidential candidate Juan Carlos] Wasmosy's absence, because he is also a cattle raiser.

[Oviedo] I would not like to comment on the reasons for his absence. This inauguration was scheduled to take place two weeks ago, but was postponed. Perhaps he had a previous engagement. But as I have said before, all the candidates appearing in the panel debates had the very best intentions for the country. I was very pleased in listening to them.

[HOY] You have always said the Army would not permit a return to the old system. Some militants [Colorado Party faction of supporters of former President Alfredo Stroessner], however, have returned to active politics. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Oviedo] I will decline to answer that question, because it refers to internal Colorado Party matters. I understand the militants' movement is a Colorado Party faction. This is why I am absolutely not interested in answering that question. What I would like to say is that in politics one must be realistic. The Colorado Party, like the EN, does not reject any political current, and should not reject anyone who wishes to join the current Colorado, democratic policy. I would praise those who try to amend the mistakes they may have made.

[HOY] Would you accept the return of J. Eugenio Jacquet [Justice Minister under Stroessner's regime] as a prominent member of the Colorado Party?

[Oviedo] We must welcome all those who have no pending crimes before the court, and wish that they might amend their mistakes (and this is not a partisan political answer). If someone has spent 30 years in prison, and has fully served his sentence and wants to resume his role in society, he must naturally be welcomed if his term in prison has helped him improve, and once again allowed to rejoin society. I am talking in general terms; this is not exactly a partisan political answer. This is my personal opinion, and I respect any other opinion.

[HOY] Do you think Jacquet will make up for his mistakes by voting or working for the Colorado Party?

[Oviedo] The Colorado Party, just as any other political party, as the military structure, as any other institution, must have a court of honor. If someone has expiated his errors, and in this case the Colorado Party welcomes him, it is the Colorado Party's problem with its supporters. I am not going to answer a question that should be answered by the court of honor and by the Colorado Party leadership. What is more, I do not want to answer a specific partisan political question.

[HOY] Have you changed your opinion since last 27 December?

[Oviedo] Well, I think you should review your notes more often, because I see that some of your colleagues have a very short memory. You may interpret what I said on 27 December as you wish. I humbly invite you to look at the video tape or recording—if you don't have it, I have the original version—to analyze what I said on that occasion. I stick to what I said then. I joined a cause on 2 February 1989. We want this country to live in democracy. This means that all of us citizens, however this may be done, should have the same right to speak our minds and vote, as well as the same right to participate in the country's development. This is exactly what I said. I also said that I would be voting for the ticket made up of those people who, in my opinion, appear to be most democratic. I did not even mention which ticket I was voting for. I only referred to this tacitly. It is up to the people to decide which ticket is most democratic. I did not say this one or the other.

[HOY] Weren't you referring to Juan Carlos Wasmosy on that occasion?

[Oviedo] I have never offended anybody, especially not a member of the Colorado Party. I am the fourth generation of a Colorado family. The Constitution does not prohibit me from having my political party and my favorite soccer team. Talking about a country ruled by democracy, I have had the opportunity to train abroad: in the United States, Germany. In those countries all military men have their political party. Just ask Colonel Morand, head of the U.S. technical military mission in Paraguay, who is a Republican. He voted for Bush. You see, that is democracy. Why should we have first and second class citizens? The people want everyone to be equal before the law and before the Constitution.

[HOY] Do you think the Pilcomayo River issue will be resolved?

[Oviedo] We are now in the Chaco region. We have the wonderful example of the Chaco war veterans, most of whom, thank God, are still alive, the example of some 30,000 Paraguayans who shed their blood in this region. We are dedicating this village in their name, and in that of those who live in the Chaco, because sovereignty means developing the land with something that will help those who live on it. As for the Pilcomayo River, I want to point out that our sovereign rights and those established by international treaties and agreements will be respected. There is no other alternative but to promote the issue. The military must do so. Those of you who work for the media must ask your bosses, who have money, to send you to the site to see for yourselves. You must invite representatives of international organizations. You, the same as us, must love this country by going to the site, by alerting the people to the problem, and by claiming respect for our rights. You must raise the issue every day with long reports in your newspapers, radios, and television channels. I tell you that together,

we will return the Pilcomayo River to its natural bed. If the Chaco war veterans were able to defend half of Paraguay, that is, 206,000 square kilometers, the least the Paraguayan public, currently amounting to 4.2 million inhabitants, can do is return the river to its natural bed.

[HOY] How?

[Oviedo] The main way, now that we live in democracy, is through diplomacy, but this channel sometimes also prompts a country to defend itself, as was proven by those who defended Paraguay in 1870 from three other countries, or those who defended our country during the Chaco war. I do not think the international organizations will allow the problem to reach that point, nor do I think Argentina will come to that. We are negotiating. Moreover, they are aware that this conflict must be solved as soon as possible.

[HOY] Do you regard this as a national political conflict?

[Oviedo] By no means. I do not think so, because this problem had already surfaced during the previous regime. We are only suffering the consequences, not only of the Pilcomayo problem, but also of the foreign debt, the cutback in international credits, and many other problems we have inherited. Ask engineer Meyer [head of the Pilcomayo River Commission]; he will give you accurate dates, years, and details of the misinformation related to support for the famous Pilcomayo River project. Go and find out for yourselves. Go and ask these people. These are mistakes of the past; we must endure them now. There are many things to amend, huge patches to cover, the division of our society. We have inherited all these problems, and must amend them, but in a sincere manner, with generosity and the spirit of reconciliation. Reconciliation must not be mere rhetoric, but a fact. One cannot preach reconciliation and at the same time sow hatred and rancor, and slander one's fellow countrymen. This is not the way to go about reconciliation. Renconciliation means to sit down to negotiations in search of a point of agreement, an accord, with respect and in a sincere manner. Not with hatred, calumny, rancor, discord, and offensiveness.

[HOY] Who are you talking about, general?

[Oviedo] About all those who do not practice reconciliation. You, who work for the media, know better than we who these people are. You have the answer to that question. Why don't you tell us? You tell me who preaches reconciliation and who does not. You are always asking questions. Now it is my turn to ask: Who is it who practices the least reconciliation? And tell me why you only want to ask questions. We, too, have a right to ask you questions. Tell me: Do you read the newspapers? Which is the newspaper, the television channel, the people who seek less reconciliation? I am asking you now; show me how brave you are, and answer my question.

[HOY] Are you referring to [Luis Maria] Argana?

[Oviedo] No. First answer my question, and then we can talk about the rest. Or aren't you as brave as I am? They want to ask questions, they want to use us as cannon fodder, but want to throw the stone and then hide their hands. I would like to know who is constantly sowing discord, hatred, rancor. Tell me the name of the person, and if you do not want to say a name, tell me the name of an institution, of a movement, of a sector of the media. Let's see if you can answer my question.

[HOY] Are you talking about the Colorado Reconciliation Movement?

[Oviedo] I thank you sincerely. The entire Paraguayan citizenry can give this journalist the answer to this question.

## National Encounter Candidate on Movement 'Victory'

*PY1704223793 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 8*

[Article by special correspondent Ana Maria Rivas]

[Excerpt] Paso Yobai and Fassardi, Guaira Department—Guillermo Caballero Vargas, presidential candidate for the National Encounter political movement, has stated: "The Armed Forces are prepared to accept a victory by National Encounter." Caballero admitted that talks had been held with General Lino Oviedo and other high-ranking military officers aimed at guaranteeing the peaceful transfer of power to the winner of the 9 May elections. He added that before the date of the elections he would present a sworn declaration of his properties to a public notary.

Caballero made these remarks during a visit he paid to a number of towns in Guira Department. "We have very cordial relations with top military officers, including the commander in chief of the Armed Forces. I have in fact talked on several occasions with Gen. Lino Oviedo about the need to enhance our democracy and the essential need to zealously and scrupulously respect constitutional provisions. This includes respect for the results of the 9 May elections, and I do in fact believe that the Armed Forces are prepared to accept a victory by National Encounter," he said.

Asked about the emerging conflict between our country and Argentina over the diversion of the Pilcomayo River, the presidential hopeful said that the current government "must not waste a single minute in taking measures."

He said: "I believe there is no time to waste on this matter. I think President Rodriguez' government is adopting the necessary measures to resolve the situation." [passage omitted]

### Editorial Criticizes Creation of New Military Post

*PY1904231093 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 16 Apr 93 p 12*

[Editorial: "The Post of 'Commander of Military Forces' Does Not Exist"]

[Text] The state organization that is a consequence of the republican system of government maintains as one of its basic principles that the president of the Republic is as well, and by virtue of that post, "commander in chief of all the forces of the nation." Our old 1870 constitution referred to this point with the same language, simply but clearly.

The 1940 Constitution was given the dubious honor of changing that elemental republican precept, to establish that the president of the Republic could delegate to an officer general the effective command of troops. The 1967 Constitution also walked this same path opened up by the previous constitution, which was predictable given the real power structure established in the country. It stated that the president of the Republic could delegate to an officer general the effective command of the Armed Forces.

The 1992 Constitution, at least on this point, obviously wanted to return to the principles of a republican system. Moreover, the usefulness and effectiveness of these principles have been fully demonstrated by the experiences of many countries, including ours.

In any case, it can only be said that the current Constitution is very clear on this point: The president of the Republic, it says, "is the commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the nation, a post he cannot delegate."

In light of the above principles and legal provisions Decree No. 17883 of 14 April appears to be at least very questionable, if not irregular, in naming with practically no foundations whatsoever Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit as commander of military forces.

The post to which Vice Adm. Gonzalez Petit was named simply does not exist within the country's military organization. Law No. 74 of 20 November 1991 on the General Organization of the Armed Forces of the Nation does not mention or consider this issue at all. And curiously enough, Decree No. 17883 does not concern itself in the least with creating (supposing that this was within the president's powers) that post, or of establishing—which constitutionally speaking can be more difficult—the functions, powers, and obligations of the said commander.

One aspect is unquestionable, however: the recent creation—let us call it that—cannot imply a delegation of the post of commander in chief, because this, as already stated, cannot be delegated.

A conceptual barrier such as this one cannot be gotten around through a mere game of words.

Should it be the case—and we are merely speaking hypothetically—that someone being called "commander of the military forces" is in fact someone meant to a "commander in chief of the Armed Forces," then the truth must prevail over words. The truth here is that the Constitution does not want and does not admit—and it says so very clearly—that the presidential role as commander in chief of the Armed Forces might be delegated to any other person or state power.

### Colorado Deputy Elected as PLRA Member, Resigns Seat

*PY2004205393 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 18 Apr 93 p 7*

[Text] Colorado Party Deputy Celso Velazquez has resigned the seat in the Chamber of Deputies that he obtained as a candidate for the Authentic Liberal Radical Party [PLRA].

Velazquez himself, through a note, informed Jose Antonio Moreno Ruffinelli, the Chamber's president, of his decision.

The resignation will presumably be debated today during the Chamber's ordinary session. If it is accepted, Juan Manuel Marcos, as first alternate member of the PLRA, will occupy Velazquez' seat, taking into account that Velazquez was elected through that party.

We must recall that in 1992 Velazquez resigned from the PLRA to become a member of the Colorado Party.

Asked why he had not resigned his PLRA seat on that occasion, he said that at that time he had many congressional commitments with several campesino communities, but now that he has complied with them he is resigning to take on other work.

### Wasmosy Views Governmental Policy 'Option'

*PY2004222793 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 17 Apr 93 p 10*

[Interview with Juan Carlos Wasmosy, Colorado Party, National Republican Association, ANR, presidential candidate, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [UTLIMA HORA] What novel ideas can the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket offer to the country?

[Wasmosy] Basically, the option we offer Paraguayans is a governmental policy acknowledged to be the best and which, without straying from the main tenets of our party's charter, will allow our country to keep up with modern times, as it cannot pretend to ignore what is happening elsewhere.

We must strive for competitiveness and to achieve this we must boost productivity, be creative, move with the times, teach, and receive training so as not to remain on

the sidelines. We must take advantage of the fact that our country is completely landlocked.

[ULTIMA HORA] How are you going to achieve all that?

[Wasmosy] By means of clear, serious, and lasting rules of the game in economic matters; by creating an atmosphere of peace, harmony, security, and trust in the government; and by a fair and reliable judiciary that enforces the law regardless of who the accused might be.

[ULTIMA HORA] During Colorado Party primaries you promised that in your five-year term in office you would make our country advance 50 years and yet you are backed by a party that stayed in office for nearly 50 years. How are you going to honor your promise?

[Wasmosy] Institutions are not bad; it is men who turn them into something bad. We are guided by republican, nationalist, and agriculture-oriented principles that other parties lack. Despite this we have failed to fully live up to them.

Everybody believes that the Colorado Party advocates statism, but in fact it was the group known as the "tiempistas," [independent movement founded by Luis A. Argana, Luis Maria Argana's father; cabinet members during the first dictatorial government of Higinio Morinigo, 1940-1947, were tiempistas] rather than the Colorado Party, that introduced statism. Blas Garay, Molas Lopez, Lopez Moreira, and others were Colorado Party members who moved with the times and implemented very progressive measures.

[ULTIMA HORA] Those would be isolated measures.

[Wasmosy] It is precisely thanks to those measures—which are not isolated but rather part of a whole package—that we will be able to accomplish in five years what is generally done in 50. But to implement them we need not only a policy but also the will to do it and the support of the majority in Congress, because we will uphold the Constitution.

[ULTIMA HORA] What will be your administration's priorities?

[Wasmosy] From the economic standpoint, to balance the budget. The four main tenets of economic policy would be free trade, the right to social security and equality before the law, boosting productivity, and environmental protection.

With regard to monetary and financial policies, our priorities will be to beat inflation, consolidate monetary stability, and strike a balance between interest rates, balanced monetary management, and the source of financial revenues. As for fiscal and budgetary policies, we will strive to have a balanced budget, to use the proceeds from privatizations and royalties [preceding word in English] to set up a National Development Fund, and to reduce government spending.

[ULTIMA HORA] In other words, you would give top priority to economic matters.

[Wasmosy] Yes, because unless we have economic stability we will neither have political stability nor solve social problems. We have a realistic program; we are not just saying something for the sake of polling more votes. [passage omitted]

[ULTIMA HORA] What role will the military have in your administration, given the new geopolitical situation?

[Wasmosy] The members of the Armed Forces are those who have best adapted themselves to changes, and the government is far from having met their needs. They are an important part of our country's social, economic, and political life; they have rights, they have chosen to join the Armed Forces.

Moreover, an understanding of the current meaning of independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity has led us to define a new strategic role for the concept of defense, which we will promote through concerted action with the Armed Forces commanders. We will restructure the organization, operation, and allocation of resources for defense according to a comprehensive approach that cannot lend itself to improvisation.

[ULTIMA HORA] What do you mean by "concerted action"?

[Wasmosy] Given the fact that it is a very specific role, how on earth are we going to express our opinion about, say, whether it is advisable to have tanks? Perhaps there could be another solution for heading off any upheavals that the police could not quell, or for swift defenses, God forbid that they should ever be necessary. They are professionals in their field, and must be consulted. This is why we talk of concerted action.

[ULTIMA HORA] How will you approach the issue of the military career?

[Wasmosy] We will encourage the consolidation of the military career within a framework of professionalism and the ongoing training of its members, which will not be limited to what is strictly military. We will introduce the necessary legal reforms, as well as those pertaining to syllabuses, so that higher military studies might not only be on an equal footing with civil university studies but be validated, so as to serve as a starting point or part of scientific or technical university careers.

Additionally, they will have an Organizational Law for Public Forces that establishes precisely when they have to enter a school, when they will be promoted, and when they will retire. The military should also earn a decent living. If they have served their country, they should have a pension and a salary that allow them to live decently. [passage omitted]

### Colorado Party's Political Campaigning in Public Companies Noted

*PY1904235593*

[Editorial report] Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish and Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish on 17 April carry a series of articles on the Colorado Party political campaign in public companies.

In a 250-word article on pages 6 and 7, NOTICIAS carries an unattributed report saying that representatives of the employees association of the National Telecommunications Association, Antelco, during a rally headed by Colorado Party leaders at the association headquarters warned their fellow workers that "they will all end up in the street if Colorado Party candidates fail to win on 9 May."

In a 200-word article on page 6, NOTICIAS carries another unattributed report saying that Guillermo Sanchez Guffanti, Water and Sanitation Corporation board of directors chairman, organized a barbecue during working hours on 16 April "to urge employees to vote for the Colorado Party."

In a 200-word article on page 7, NOTICIAS carries a third report that states: "A delegation of National Institute of Technology and Standards' employees" headed by Anibal Benitez Navarro visited Industry and Commerce Minister Ubaldo Scavone to ask for "the dismissal of 35 of their fellow workers," some 20 percent of the payroll, because "they supported the National Encounter" movement.

In a 300-word article on page 4, ABC COLOR carries a report by Hector Guerin that states that "superintendents of the Itaipu Binational Entity hold political meetings with their employees during working hours to campaign for Colorado Party candidates." Guerin says that former union leader Adelio Aquino informed him that fellow workers were being "forced" to campaign in support of the Colorado Party ticket.

In a 250-word article on page 5, ABC COLOR carries an unattributed report saying that candidate for governor Luis Alberto Wagner reported that on 16 April Antelco employees using company vehicles were putting up posters in support of the Colorado Party ticket during working hours. The report was corroborated by a newspaper reporter who photographed the incident.

### Colorado Reconciliation Movement Leader on Handbill 'Fabrication'

*PY2004151693 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 20 Apr 93 p 10*

[Text] Luis Maria Argana, leader of the Colorado Reconciliation Movement, on 19 April issued a document that condemns the falsification of a handbill disseminated in the country's interior. The handbill reads that the movement orders its supporters to vote for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket. Argana has said that the handbill is a "fabrication" to confuse the Colorado Party's electorate that supported List No. 4 in the recent internal party elections. On the contrary, Argana reminds his supporters that his decision not to vote for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket remains firm.

Argana maintains that there is no resolution that authorizes voting for Juan Carlos Wasmosy and Angel Roberto Seifart, who, according to the ANR [National Republican Association-Colorado Party] Electoral Board, were declared the winners of the party's internal elections.

Argana says that it is only "a new indignant, foul, and disloyal attitude by the Rodriguistas [supporters of President Andres Rodriguez], who, in their desperation to obtain votes that are being denied them by the people of the Colorado Party now, are disseminating a handbill in the interior in which, with superimposed photocopies, they fabricate an alleged resolution by the Colorado Reconciliation Movement ordering that the votes be given to the corrupt Wasmosy-Seifart ticket."

The former presidential hopeful says that resolution does not exist. He adds that the falsification was created by a leadership that "does not have any type of scruples and resorts to the most foul ploys."

Argana insists that the handbill with the alleged resolution that is being disseminated throughout the country is another "fabrication within the framework of fraud, onslaught, and trickery."

"Due to this motive, we reiterate that the loyalty that is being demanded for the party does not apply on this occasion because the fatherland comes before the party, which cannot be betrayed under the pretext of giving any type of loyalty to the predacity of a group that has become wealthy from the immoral and corrupt evasion of taxes and at the people's expense."

Argana continues, saying that "there is a non-Colorado candidate, who has been disqualified for his Liberal and Alon [referring to the Liberal Party and its youth organization] background and who argued that Paraguay does not have the moral stature to demand the Itaipu Treaty's renegotiation." He then recalls deaths of two workers at Itaipu Binational and says they were "murdered because they demanded their just rights."

He says that there will not be any type of "alleged party fidelity to save the fatherland," which, he comments, today is provoked by the "uncontrollable rapacity of a few corrupt citizens who have become allies to perpetuate themselves, one after the other, at the head of the government."

"This is the time when we must decisively choose between honor and shame—the democratic and honest Colorado Party Traditional Movement or the authoritarian and immoral Colorado facade."

Argana says that the order not to vote for the Wasmosy-Seifart ticket is in force. "We remind our supporters that the 10 March resolution is in full force. This resolution orders that the candidates that were genuinely elected as hopefuls for the governorships and the national and departmental legislatures should be voted for and that the candidates of the fraudulent Wasmosy-Seifart ticket must not be voted for."

Finally, the political leader again condemns "very rigorously the foul falsification maneuver that has the intention of creating confusion among our people."

### Correction to Argentine Military Chief Arrives

*PY1904191693*

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Argentine Military Chief Arrives" published in the 16 April Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 36:

First paragraph, only sentence, make read: ...Martin Antonio Balza, chief of staff of the Argentine Army, arrived this morning... (correcting title)

## Peru

### State of Emergency Extended in Pasco, Other Departments

*PA2004130193 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Excerpts] Here is what is included on the separate page on legal provisions, published by the official newspaper EL PERUANO. We found that (Victor Diaz Laus), secretary general of the presidential palace, is going to China. His trip has been authorized. [passage omitted]

In addition, the state of emergency was extended in Pasco Department and different provinces in the Departments of Junin, Huancavelica, Ayacucho, and Puno. [passage omitted]

### CCD Decisions on Judicial Budget, Selection of Judges Made

*PY2004204893 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 1 Apr 93 p A-3*

[Excerpts] The CCD [Democratic Constituent Congress] Constitutional Affairs Committee has established that the constitution should not make any reference to the percentage of the national budget to be alloted to the judicial branch.

After a trying debate in which the opinions of the members of the majority were divided, the committee decided that the percentage of the budget to be alloted to the judicial branch should not be established by the constitution because it would be impossible to comply with the measure. [passage omitted]

By approving Article 17, Chapter V on the appointment and promotion of judges, the CCD Constitutional Affairs Committee also agreed that the text of the new constitution must specify that it will be up to the National Council of Magistrates and District Councils to select, appoint, and promote judges.

## Venezuela

### Students Seize 14 Buses, Burn Perez in Effigy

*PA2004213493 Paris AFP in Spanish 2005 GMT 20 Apr 93*

[Text] Caracas, 20 Apr (AFP)—Students from the Central University of Venezuela in Caracas seized 14 small public buses and burned President Carlos Andres Perez in effigy on 20 April to protest an imminent increase in bus fares, AFP reporters learned.

Police officers cordoned off the university, located in east central Caracas, but no disorders were reported as of noon (1600 GMT).

The university students, who are demanding that the current bus fares should remain in effect, especially the preferential rates for students, "illustrated" their protest by burning an effigy of Perez, who they blame for the economic crisis in Venezuela "because of the adjustment program he signed with the IMF."

The university students, who were still holding the buses by 1200 on 20 April, were demanding the presence of Mayor Aristobulo Isturiz, a member of the leftist Radical Cause Party, as well as representatives of the mass transportation associations, to exchange viewpoints.

Last week, when Caracas bus owners staged a strike lasting a day and a half to pressure the mayor into immediately approving a 25 percent hike from the current fare of $0.10, Isturiz announced he would not answer the request made by the bus owners until 20 April when the Caracas Mayor's Office would end a round of consultations with metropolitan parishes.

Transporters threatened to resume the strike indefinitely on 20 April if the Mayor's Office did not approve the fare increase.

Also, neighborhood associations submitted to the Mayor's Office a long list of signatures of people opposed to a bus fare increase if it was not accompanied by an improvement in the bus service and by respect for the preferential rates for students and the elderly.

### Perez Blamed for Human Rights Abuses

*PA2004223593 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 12 Apr 93 pp A1, D1*

[Report by Graciela Garcia]

[Text] The Movement Toward Socialism [MAS] Human Rights secretariat requested that Socialist International

authorities consider suspending President Carlos Andres Perez and his Democratic Action [AD] party as members of their organization as a way to penalize Perez and his party for their alleged responsibility for abuses of human rights principles.

MAS Secretary General Enrique Ochoa Antich stated that the petition, supported by concrete evidence, is being presented in "hope of reestablishing respect for principles such as the inviolability of life and liberty (as established in the Human Rights Charter), violated today as a daily practice of those who control their share of power in our country, starting with the president of the Republic."

The request is addressed to Socialist International President Pierre Mauroy.

MAS is making its request just one day after Monsignor Ovidio Perez Morales, president of the Venezuelan Bishops Conference, made a complaint related to "unprecedented" instances of human rights violations observed in the country during the last few years.

The document MAS sent to Socialist International holds President Carlos Andres Perez "directly and indirectly responsible for, among other things, the 1,100 deaths associated with indiscriminate operations carried out by state security bodies during the past four years."

Part of the document states that "during that timeframe, violence has taken over the country. Thousands of fellow Venezuelans have not died as a result of clashes or circumstances involving legitimate defense, but as a result of operations that in many cases were executions. The 1992 average was one death every seven days. That figure increased during the first quarter of the current year to one death every four days."

"Reaction to the people's protest has been unwarranted deaths and excessive violence by the state. Seven youths were killed during 15 days of student protests for defending the 'mutinous and rebellious' rallying call for student half-price fares. On the other hand, President Perez decided to dismiss charges against the seven murderers of Second Class Corporal Richard Gomez Taima (seven sergeants and one junior lieutenant were sentenced to 13 years in prison for killing the corporal with a bat during a night of torture)" the report sent to Socialist International indicates.

According to Ochoa Antich, these cases clearly establish the president as the promoter of the pernicious practice of impunity, which has in turn clouded the credibility of the judicial system as well as the other democratic institutions. Reports prepared by the UN Amnesty International [as published], and to the surprise of many, the [U.S.] State Department, are now covering and passing judgment on the repeated human rights violations that have taken place during the past four years under the Perez administration.

The document provides concrete evidence connected to the 27 February 1989 and 27 November 1992 incidents (specifically the one related to the death of hundreds of inmates in Catia Prison), the alleged trial against more than 40 students for protesting against the government, abuses against freedom of expression and the press, physical attacks on dozens of journalists (including the death of two), and repeated violations of the basic rights of association and public protest.

**Preliminary Hearing To Determine Merit**

In another communication also attributed to Ochoa Antich, MAS urges Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro, president of the Supreme Court of Justice, not to forget that in Perez' trial "we would be judging a system that is crumbling and must be urgently replaced by another for the good and survival of liberty and democracy. In addition, we would also be judging a person who, overstepping his mandate, toyed with the country, offended national honor, compromised the future, and attempted to transform deception into a state practice. This is, in good measure, the responsibility you have in your hands."

The communique states: "You must also bear in mind, Magistrate, that according to Article 215 of the Constitution, the court is going to decide if there is sufficient merit to have the president stand trial. The decision does not involve presenting an opinion on the bottom line of the issue; that is, the president's guilt or innocence. It will be up to the trial."

Ochoa Antich recalled Article 150 of the National Constitution, which establishes that should the president be forced to stand trial, "he would be suspended from his duties." He also warned that "if Perez' maniacal whim of holding on to power until the last day of his constitutional term is rewarded," it would be tantamount to arousing hostility even more and provoking the people who will "surely consider their honor offended."

"Is the Perez presidency worth more than the stability of the Republic? Are the president's arrogant wims worth more than the life of one of the country's sons?" Ochoa Antich asked.

## Government Donates 17 Tons of Food to Cuba

*PA2004031893 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Apr 93 p 2a*

[Text] Venezuela has donated 17 tons of food to Cuba as part of a humanitarian aid package for those affected by the so-called storm of the century, which thrashed the island last month. Alberto Garanton, Foreign Ministry director of general services, who led the mission that traveled to Cuba on 7 April, said on 12 April that new

shipments of medicines and other products will be sent to Cuba. The food package contained canned tuna, oil, pasta, margarine, sardines, rice, oatmeal, and meat.

Foreign Minister Fernando Ochoa Antich said on 12 April that Venezuela will uphold its position that "Cuba should not be cornered." This is why Venezuela rejects all kinds of meddling that results in "pressure" on the Havana government. Ochoa said: "Our aspirations continue to be that the Cuban regime will evolve into a democratic system, thereby allowing it access to the Latin American community, and that firm action will be taken for greater respect for human rights. Venezuela will continue to give Cuba the support it requires, from a humanitarian point of view." Meanwhile, he reiterated that Venezuela, as well as the Rio Group, reject the Torricelli Law.